

2016 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar Biographies



Renaisa Anthony

Renaisa S. Anthony M.D., M.P.H., is a licensed, practicing physician and public health practitioner. She is the Deputy Director of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion in the College of Public Health, and practices medicine at the Charles Drew Community Health Center. Her research interests are in gender-specific health disparities. Her professional and personal commitment to eradicating health disparities and improving the lives of women, children, families, and communities developed over a myriad of professional and personal experiences. She is an advocate for Healthy People 2020 goals to eliminate disparities, achieve health equity, and improve the health of all populations. Some of her most notable achievements include being honored by the U.S. Surgeon General; testifying before Congress in support of the Affordable Care Act; earning the 2010 American Public Health Association Leadership and Advocacy Award and the 2010 National Medical Association's Top Doctor Under 40 Award; presenting the TEDx Talk, "A Recipe for Health Equity"; and presenting the Midwest Global Health Conference keynote, "We Are the World: A 21st Century Perspective on Health Disparities." She earned her medical degree at the University of Chicago and her M.P.H. at Harvard University, completed internship training at Vanderbilt University, and held a fellowship in health policy at the National Institutes of Health and the Office of the Surgeon General.



Anu Asnaani

Anu Asnaani, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry at the Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Asnaani received her B.S. degree in psychology from Brown University and her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Boston University. Dr. Asnaani completed her clinical internship at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Her current research interests include understanding how diversity influences emotion regulation, cross-cultural aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of anxiety disorders, increasing our understanding about mechanisms underlying successful treatment outcomes, and effectively increasing dissemination of empirically supported treatments for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other anxiety disorders. Dr. Asnaani specializes in cognitive behavioral treatment for social anxiety, panic disorder, specific phobias, generalized anxiety, substance use disorders, prolonged exposure for PTSD, and exposure and response prevention for OCD.



Victoria Blinder

Victoria Blinder is a medical oncologist with a practice that is dedicated to the treatment of patients with breast cancer. She holds a dual appointment in the Department of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her primary research interest is in racial/ethnic disparities in employment and related outcomes in breast cancer survivors and in the development of culturally relevant interventions to minimize these disparities. She has expertise in qualitative and quantitative methods, having laid the foundation for her research program through a qualitative study, using focus

groups to better define employment-related problems and understand the relevant issues. Subsequent work in this area has included several analyses of employment and financial outcomes using a large, prospectively collected dataset of medically underserved, low-income, English- and/or Spanish-speaking breast cancer survivors in California. More recently, she designed and conducted a prospective, multicenter, longitudinal study of disparities in employment outcomes among newly diagnosed women who speak Chinese, English, Korean, and/or Spanish and are undergoing treatment for breast cancer in New York, NY. This study is in its last year of recruitment and was funded by a Mentored Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society (the pilot was funded by a Career Development Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology). Additional research interests include patient-physician communication about treatment planning and survivorship, as well as ethnic disparities in breast cancer care and the financial impact of breast cancer on economically disadvantaged populations.



Enrico Castillo

Enrico Castillo, M.D., completed his psychiatry residency at Columbia University after obtaining his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his M.D. with a concentration in underserved populations from the University of Pittsburgh. During his residency, Dr. Castillo was selected as an American Psychiatric Association/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Minority Fellow, which included a grant with which he created an online series of filmed interviews focused on Asian American mental health. He completed a clinical fellowship in public psychiatry at Columbia University, working as a staff psychiatrist

on a north Bronx Assertive Community Treatment team and a Housing First outreach team for the chronically street homeless in lower Manhattan with Janian Medical Care, Project for Psychiatric Outreach to the Homeless. Dr. Castillo is a health policy and services research fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at the University of California, Los Angeles, and has a joint affiliation with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. His research interests are in community academic partnerships, public mental health policy, and interventions to address the social determinants of health and mental health. His research focuses on the behavioral and physical health of underserved and at-risk populations, such as those with serious mental illness and the chronically homeless.



Eva Chang

Eva Chang, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a Research Public Health Analyst in the Center for Advanced Methods Development at RTI International, a non-profit research institute. Her research interests include health care delivery (low-value care/overuse), disparities in health care access and utilization, and minority and underserved populations. She is currently interested in examining how language segregation is associated with access to and quality of care. Her work at RTI focuses on evaluating CMS-funded innovations to improve the health care payment and delivery system.

Prior to joining RTI, Dr. Chang was a postdoctoral fellow at Group Health Research Institute, the research arm of an integrated health care system in Seattle, WA. There, she worked on various projects that focused on provider and health care system perspectives of low-value care and understanding disparities in access among vulnerable populations, including examining web portal access among minority populations, medication adherence among limited English proficient patients, and perspectives on cancer reminder letters among African American and Latina women. Dr. Chang's dissertation research focused on variations in access to care among Asian Americans. She has presented her research at numerous professional meetings and published articles in peer-reviewed journals, including *American Journal of Public Health*, *Medical Care*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, and *Medical Care Research and Review*. Dr. Chang received a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, an M.P.H. from Yale School of Public Health, and a B.A. in Integrative Biology from University of California, Berkeley.



Larry Charleston, IV

Larry Charleston, IV, M.D., F.A.H.S., is a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the United Council of Neurological Subspecialties with certification in headache medicine. He is an assistant professor of neurology at the University of Michigan's Health System Department of Neurology and a fellow of the American Headache Society (AHS). Dr. Charleston was an American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Professional Association's Kenneth M. Viste Neurology Policy Fellow and worked with Congressman Wally Herger on policy initiatives, such as Medicare and physician payment reform, and assisted with Representative Herger's policy

initiatives within the House's Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health. As a second year medical student, Dr. Charleston founded Wayne State University's Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students. Active in the AAN and AHS, he has served on the board of several committees and founded the AAN Professional Association Brain Political Action Committee. He is also a member of the American Neurological Association. Dr. Charleston is a student in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars' Health and Health Care Research Master's Program at the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School. He received his M.D. from Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his preliminary medicine year at St. John Hospital and Health System in Detroit, MI; completed his neurology residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX; and completed a Headache and Facial Pain Fellowship at the Jefferson Headache Center of Thomas Jefferson University.



Natalie Crawford

Natalie D. Crawford, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Trained in social epidemiology, she received her Ph.D. in epidemiology from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in 2011. Dr. Crawford completed her post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar. Her broad research interests are examining the social processes that create and perpetuate racial and ethnic disparities in HIV. Her published work examines the intersection of individual-level experiences of discrimination, macro-level neighborhood characteristics, and social network relationships on high-risk drug and sexual behaviors. Dr. Crawford also has extensive experience performing structural interventions that aim to influence policy and reduce high-risk drug and sex behaviors.



Elena Cyrus

Elena Cyrus is a postdoctoral associate at the Center for Substance Use and HIV/AIDS Research on Latinos in the United States at Florida International University. Elena is interested in social and contextual barriers as they impact access to care among vulnerable populations, such as immigrants, prisoners, women, sexual, and racial minorities. She is currently developing a grant to pilot an adapted intervention aimed at improving pre-exposure prophylaxis linkage and adherence among high-risk Latino sexual minorities in South Florida. Elena received her Ph.D. in public health, with a concentration in epidemiology, from Florida International University. Her dissertation assessed the relationships of social capital, HIV risk behavior, and substance use among recent Latino immigrants in South Florida. She completed fellowships in family planning and reproductive health through U.S. Agency for International Development and the University of Michigan, and in global health through the John E. Fogarty International Center and Yale University. Prior to her doctoral training, Dr. Cyrus worked as a clinical research manager for FHI 360 in the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HTPN) and Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) where she primarily worked on HPTN 055 and 059, regarding the safety, acceptability, and preparedness trials for the MTN 003 VOICE tenofovir efficacy trial.



Marina Del Rios

Marina Del Rios, M.D., M.S., is a Health Disparities Research Coordinator and core faculty member of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. She graduated from the Emergency Medicine residency at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital and went on to pursue an Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship in New York Methodist Hospital and an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality-sponsored Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research Fellowship at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Dr. Del Rios is the Community Sphere Physician Leader of the Illinois Heart Rescue Project, a quality assurance project tasked with more than doubling the neurologically intact survival of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims in the state of Illinois. She has extensive experience with community engagement, CPR education, and cardiovascular health promotion in high-risk populations. She is a co-investigator on multiple research areas, including the use emergency bedside ultrasound as a screening tool for acute and chronic disease, strategies to increase bystander CPR in low-income communities, and identification of community-level risk factors for cardiac arrest incidence and survival. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Treatment of Cardiac Arrest and has received competitive funding from the National Institutes of Health, Medtronic Philanthropy, the Pritzker-Taubert Foundation, and the American Heart Association. Dr. Del Rios has a special interest in Latino heart health. Her current research aims to identify individual and neighborhood contextual effects associated with cardiac arrest survival in Latino communities.



James Faghmous

James H. Faghmous, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Population Health Science and Policy at the Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Minnesota where his doctoral thesis on the intersection of artificial intelligence and global climate change received the "Best Dissertation Award in Science and Engineering," which is the highest distinction for graduate work. Dr. Faghmous' current research seeks to develop new methods that combine artificial intelligence with various non-clinical datasets (e.g. social, economic, policy, etc.) to create equitable health care systems. Dr. Faghmous received a B.Sc. from the City College of New York where he was a Rhodes and Gates scholars' nominee.



Albert Farias

Albert J. Farias, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a health services researcher with expert knowledge of cancer health disparities, cancer prevention and control, research methodology, and statistical analysis. He is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Texas Health Science Center at the Houston School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology, Environmental Sciences, and Human Genetics. His research focuses on examining the quality of adjuvant breast cancer care for minority and underserved women using data from the SEER/Medicare-linked database. He also teaches the course, Health Care Delivery in the United States, in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of South Carolina Keck School of Medicine. In 2015, he earned a Ph.D. in health services research with an emphasis in evaluation sciences and statistics and cancer prevention and control from the University of Washington. He also holds an M.P.H. in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Cristina Fernandez

Cristina Fernández, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P., is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Columbia University Department of Pediatrics where she recently completed a Primary Care Research Fellowship conducting research on associations between food insecurity and adverse child health and behaviors and associations between premature infant feeding practices and early childhood growth. Her research and advocacy interests include food insecurity, infant and child nutrition and feeding practices, health disparities, social determinants of health, Latino health issues, and public health policy. Dr. Fernández co-chairs the Committee on Nutrition and Obesity in her American Academy of Pediatrics chapter and is a member of the Young Physicians Leadership Alliance. She is also actively involved with the National Hispanic Medical Association Council of Young Physicians and the Academic Pediatric Association. Dr. Fernández enjoys participating in public health and nutrition advocacy campaigns and mentoring college and medical students and residents. She graduated from Washington University, St. Louis, with double majors in biology and international studies, received her M.P.H. with a concentration on the epidemiology of microbial diseases from the Yale School of Public Health, and earned her M.D. from the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. She completed her residency training in Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center at the New York Presbyterian Hospital.



Daniel Giovenco

Daniel Giovenco, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a Research Associate in the Center for Tobacco Studies at the Rutgers School of Public Health where he also received his Ph.D. and M.P.H. in health education and behavioral science. At the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, Dr. Giovenco teaches an undergraduate course on health behavior. He has authored over a dozen peer-reviewed manuscripts on tobacco use and serves as project coordinator for the New Jersey Tobacco Point-of-Sale Project, an initiative to characterize the tobacco retail environment near schools throughout the state. His research uses a combination of geographical information systems, field data collection, and survey data to uncover how neighborhood characteristics, such as tobacco marketing, influence racial and ethnic health disparities. He is a finalist for the National Institutes of Health Director’s Early Independence Award, a 5-year grant that helps early career scientists launch into independent research. If funded, his project will examine how the promotion of tobacco products with varying levels of risk differs across neighborhoods and how this may influence harm reduction behaviors and subsequent health disparities.



Anika Hines

Anika L. Hines, Ph.D., M.P.H., is currently a Research Fellow in General Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Her research focuses on eliminating racial disparities in health and health care with an emphasis on the roles of discrimination, microaggressions, and other experiences with racism. Her current projects investigate how experiences of discrimination impact diabetes and hypertension outcomes in a racially integrated community, and how using housing vouchers to move to opportunity neighborhoods may alter discriminatory experiences and, subsequently, asthma outcomes. Through her research, Dr. Hines aims to understand how lived social experiences impact chronic disease and how health care may be used to mitigate some of these effects through a broader population health lens. Committed to achieving health equity for marginalized groups, Dr. Hines will use community-based participatory research approaches to ensure that her research findings are translatable to viable and sustainable solutions for community benefit. She previously served as a consultant on health care quality and disparities reporting, as well as organizational cultural competence and health equity reporting efforts. Dr. Hines received her bachelor’s degree from Hampton University, her master’s degree from the Yale University School of Public Health, and her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is also a certified project management professional.



Lu Hu

Lu Hu, Ph.D., R.N., is a first-year post-doctoral fellow at New York University School of Medicine. Her research interest is in the area of diabetes prevention and management among Asian Americans. She is currently involved in several National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded projects as a graduate student researcher, focusing on using technology-based interventions to promote lifestyle behavioral changes among diabetes patients with poor glycemic control or diabetes complicated by chronic kidney diseases. Dr. Hu received her Ph.D. training from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. During her doctoral training, she is gaining experience in working with populations with various chronic conditions and with technology-based behavioral change interventions. She was awarded a ThinkSwiss travel grant to participate in a 1-week intensive training class in Switzerland on developing technology-based behavioral interventions for individuals and families affected by various chronic conditions. During her pre-doctoral training, she first-authored or co-authored 10 peer-reviewed publications and a book chapter and gave over 20 presentations at local, national, and international conferences. The high quality of her work has been recognized at an international conference and awarded as the best student poster. Besides the ability to disseminate research findings, she also gained experience in grant writing and successfully secured two grants for her dissertation research study. This NIMHD summer training program will greatly enhance and broaden her knowledge in health disparities and prepare her to become an independent researcher to reduce health disparities among Asian Americans with prediabetes and diabetes.



Dayna Johnson

Dayna A. Johnson, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S., M.S.W., is a Social Epidemiologist and Research Fellow in Sleep Medicine Epidemiology in the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Her research employs a multilevel framework to explore the social and environmental determinants of sleep and cardiovascular outcomes across diverse populations with the intention to address health disparities. Dr. Johnson is broadly interested in social determinants of health, sleep health, racial/ethnic health disparities, neighborhood effects on health, psychosocial stressors and cardiovascular outcomes. Her current research explicates the social contributors to racial/ethnic and gender disparities in sleep by (1) quantifying the influence of psychosocial stressors as well as household and neighborhood factors on sleep disturbances, assessed by well validated subjective and objective indices; (2) identifying potential differences in risk factors for sleep disorders in African American men and women; and (3) investigating the epidemiology of sleep apnea as well as the contribution of sleep apnea to cognitive function in large epidemiologic cohorts. Dr. Johnson received a B.A. in Psychology from Purdue University, and obtained her M.P.H. (Health Behavior Health Education), M.S.W. (Management of Human Services/Community and Social Systems), M.S. and Ph.D. (Epidemiologic Sciences) from the University of Michigan.



Meneka Johnson

Meneka Johnson is the corporate compliance officer at rural health medical program, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Selma, AL. Her research interests include gerontology, rural health, and minority health disparities. She previously worked at the University of Alabama as a clinical psychology postdoctoral fellow where she collaborated with federally qualified health centers in the Deep South region of the United States, conducting research on behavioral health integration practices within these agencies. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University and was employed as a research and teaching assistant throughout her tenure as a graduate student. Dr. Johnson interned with the Cooperative Extension Department while working with individuals with disabilities at a local nonprofit. She enjoys attending and presenting her research at local and national conferences every year and has remained active in her professional associations. Her training and experience led her to her current opportunity in administration where she is looking forward to the possibilities of conducting community-based participatory research in an effort to address and reduce health disparities in the local, rural community.



Lenette Jones

Lenette M. Jones is an early-career nursing scientist. She is a research postdoctoral fellow in the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. She is also an investigator in the P30 Center of Excellence in Self-Management Science (SMART Center), directed by Dr. Shirley Moore. Her primary research focus is designing research interventions to reduce the health disparities affecting African American women with hypertension. Her research interests include information behaviors used to self-manage blood pressure and the associated neurobiological mechanisms underlying self-management behaviors. Dr. Jones received her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate in Nursing from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. During her time there, she received the Ruth Neumann Full Academic Scholarship, the Rackham Merit Fellowship, and the Josephine Sana Memorial Graduation Award. She also spent time serving as a mentor, a graduate student instructor, and a graduate student research assistant. After successfully defending her dissertation, she received the Dissertation Award from the Self Care Research Interest Group of the Midwest Nursing Research Society. Dr. Jones is an active member of the American Nurses Association, the Midwest Nursing Research Society, the Consumer Health Informatics in the Midwest group, and the American Heart Association. She continues to work towards her overall goal of becoming an independent nursing scientist with a successful program of research that addresses disparities in hypertension affecting African American women for which she is currently conducting two studies and submitting grant proposals, manuscripts, and abstracts for presentation.

**Adrian Juarez**

Adrian Juarez, Ph.D., R.N., is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University at Buffalo. His research interests include the examination of HIV care access disparities in historically marginalized population groups. Currently, he is focusing on the intersection of substance use and sexual behaviors within the social networks of transgender populations in western New York and the Texas-Mexico border. Born in El Paso, TX, he is an alumnus of the University of Southern California and completed his formal educational training at New York University.

**Aleksandar Kecojevic**

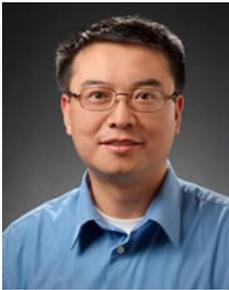
Aleksandar Kecojevic, B.Sc., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., is an Assistant Professor at William Paterson University where he teaches public health. He earned a Dr.P.H. on community health and prevention from Drexel University School of Public Health and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at San Diego State University. He also received an M.P.H. with a certificate in health communication from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and B.Sc. in biology from the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Kecojevic uses trans-disciplinary, community-based approaches in his public health research and combines quantitative and qualitative research methods to study substance use; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health; high-risk youth; and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kecojevic worked on National Institutes of Health-funded projects studying prescription drug misuse among young people in Los Angeles, CA, and New York, NY, to describe patterns of misuse, risk, protective behaviors, and health consequences. He also worked on evaluation studies of overdose prevention programs in Los Angeles, CA, and Philadelphia, PA, to determine which effectively reduce fatal drug overdoses. As a principal investigator of National Institute of Drug Use R36 dissertation grant, he studied prescription drug misuse and sexual risk behaviors of young men who have sex with men in Philadelphia. Dr. Kecojevic's research has been published in journals, such as *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *AIDS and Behavior*, and *Addictive Behaviors*, among others. He has presented his work at various conferences, including American Public Health Association and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.

**Sharon Lambert**

Sharon Lambert, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Clinical and Community Psychology in the Department of Psychology at George Washington University. She is affiliated with the Center for Prevention and Early Intervention at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and has expertise in developmental and quantitative psychology with a substantive focus on the normative and atypical development of racial and ethnic minority youth, primarily African American youth. Dr. Lambert's research focuses on how urban youth and families experience and manage neighborhood and race-related stressors, particularly the role of community violence exposure and racial discrimination in the development and course of youth depressive symptoms and problems that co-occur with depression. A related interest is the identification of mechanisms that link contextual stressors and youth outcomes. Her work also seeks to understand factors that account for variations in youth adaptation and responses to contextual stressors, examining factors that support youth's healthy adjustment in the context of adversity. An overarching goal of Dr. Lambert's research is to inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of contextually and culturally relevant preventive interventions for urban and ethnic minority youth and families.

**Crystal Lee**

Crystal Lee, M.P.H., Ph.D., was born and raised on the Navajo Reservation. Her tribal clans are Tachii'nii, Tabaaha, Tsenjikini, and Kin I ichii'nii. She received her Ph.D. in public health and M.P.H. degrees from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is currently doing a post-doctoral fellowship at University of California, Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine under their Semel Institute & Department of Psychiatry, Global Center for Children & Families, Center for HIV Identification, Prevention & Treatment Services. Through this fellowship, Dr. Lee is focusing on HIV prevention combination research. She also works with the United Nations (UN) and is part of the UN North American Indigenous Caucus and UN Indigenous Women's Caucus, which address indigenous health disparities on an international platform. Dr. Lee is interested in conducting research in the areas of sexual and reproductive health to ultimately increase the health status of tribal communities. In addition, she is interested in collaboration efforts with indigenous communities worldwide to advance culturally responsive research in the areas of disease prevention and indigenous healing combined with Western medicine.



Jun Li

Jun Li, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., is an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control's (DCPC) Epidemiology and Applied Research Branch of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). His research interests focus on preventing and controlling prostate and childhood cancers. Dr. Li has been working with three grantees to better understand barriers to colorectal cancer screening and develop an evidence-based intervention among Asian subpopulations. In addition, he leads research projects to monitor prostate cancer and childhood cancer incidence and mortality, and the use of prostate cancer screening across the nation. Dr. Li's strong interests in cancer genomics led him to receive CDC's 2007 Public Health Genomics Fellowship Award and he was selected to the CDC's 2016 Population Health Training in Place Program. The International Society for the Study of Lumbar Spine (ISSLS) Research awarded him the ISSLS prize in 2004. He has authored/coauthored about 50 peer-reviewed publications. Prior to his work with CDC, Dr. Li worked as postdoctoral research associate in Emory University's Department of Orthopedics, focusing on gene therapy for spinal degeneration. He earned his M.D. from a 7-year program at Xi'an Medical University, was trained jointly by Xi'an Jiaotong University and Emory University for his Ph.D, and received his M.P.H. in epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.



Linda Maldonado

Linda Maldonado's work as a health disparities researcher was sparked 30 years ago as a labor and delivery R.N. working in the Deep South region of the United States. Witnessing many injustices in the health care of vulnerable pregnant women convinced her to pursue the correction of these injustices. Advocating for women at the bedside eventually led to the pursuit of scholarship and academia. She completed her Ph.D. in the history of nursing and post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for Health Equity Research at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing. Currently, Dr. Maldonado is a second-year faculty member at Villanova University in the College of Nursing where I teach maternal/child nursing as well as history of nursing. Her research interest surrounds gaining an understanding of the lives of urban, childbearing Puerto Rican women's prenatal care registration, adherence, and birth outcomes. Currently, she is in the study recruitment phase. Ultimately, with the collaboration of the Puerto Rican women themselves, Dr. Maldonado hopes to build an intervention that will help facilitate prenatal care registration and adherence for urban childbearing Puerto Rican women and positively affect their maternal and child health outcomes. Her most precious accomplishment, however, is being the single mother to two amazing sons: Jacob (20) and Joshua (18).



Lorena Martin

Lorena Martin, Ph.D., M.S., is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Her research focuses on reducing health disparities among the Hispanic population. Currently, Dr. Martin is conducting research on mediators and moderators of physical activity and the prevention of chronic disease, utilizing biostatistics and geographic information systems models to examine current health disparities in Hispanic populations. She was recruited for her first year as a postdoctoral research fellow to UCSD after conducting a behavioral and physical intervention on an underserved population in the southeast region of the United States. The goal was to supply access to this underserved Hispanic population and examine the effects of a dual intervention on physical activity adherence in 290 Hispanic women. Dr. Martin was awarded a National Institute of Health (NIH)/National Cancer Institute postdoctoral research fellowship for her second and third years and an NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute T32 award for her fourth year as a postdoctoral research fellow. In addition, Dr. Martin received several other awards and fellowships during her tenure as a postdoctoral research fellow at UCSD, including an advanced biostatistics-training grant from the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology and the American Heart Association fellowship grant for a 10-day seminar on Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease.



Airin Martinez

Airín D. Martínez, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University. For over 10 years, she has collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to examine the relationship between health and place among older adults, cardiovascular disease risk, and occupational health risk among low-income, Latina/o immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area, CA; Baltimore, MD; and Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Martínez has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) where she was the recipient of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Pre-doctoral Fellowship. Her dissertation research was a situational analysis of eating well among Latino immigrant families in San Francisco, in which she identified transnational processes that sustain and transform practices of healthy eating pre- and post-immigration. Between 2010 and 2012, she was a W.K. Kellogg Health Postdoctoral Fellow in the Community Track program at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Martínez's new area of research seeks to integrate biobehavioral and socio-ecological approaches to understand how the local implementation of immigration enforcement policies creates material deprivation and psychosocial stress in mixed-status families. She is currently leading a Phoenix-based pilot study, examining how chronic stressors, including fear of deportation, relate to salivary biomarkers for stress and inflammation among mixed-status, Mexican families. Her long-term goal is to become an independent research scientist who creates structural interventions that prevent chronic disease among Latinas/os while addressing the implications of migrant illegality.

**Roshanak Mehdipناه**

Roshanak Mehdipناه, Ph.D, M.Sc., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education (HBHE) in the School of Public Health. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Spain and her M.Sc. from the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Prior to joining the faculty in HBHE, Dr. Mehdipناه was involved with the SOPHIE project (Evaluating the Impact of Structural Policies on Health Inequalities) funded by the European Community's Seventh Framework Program. In this project, she led a 4-year evaluation of an urban renewal policy and its effects on the health and health inequalities in some of Barcelona's neighborhoods. She is currently the principal investigator of a World Health Organization-funded pilot project that has adapted and implemented the Urban Health Equity Assessment Response Tool (Urban HEART) in Detroit, MI. This process has engaged diverse partners, including community organizations, the Detroit Health Department, and University of Michigan researchers. Dr. Mehdipناه specializes in innovative research methods, including realist evaluations and concept mapping to develop conceptual frameworks linking complex interventions to health. She has published in the areas of urban renewal, housing, and policies aimed at eliminating health inequalities.

**Hector Olvera**

Hector A. Olvera, Ph.D., P.E., is involved in a research program on the biological interactions of traffic-related air pollution and socially driven susceptibilities, and their overlapping impact on cardiovascular health. Trained as an environmental engineer, Dr. Olvera has amassed extensive research experience in air pollution exposure assessment in support of epidemiological studies of cardiopulmonary health. He has further refined his research to focus on biobehavioral studies, having structured an interdisciplinary conceptual framework that integrates social and environmental factors to study how socially disparate susceptibilities, like early life stress, may amplify the impact of air pollution exposure on cardiovascular health. He is also interested in community-engaged research and works with youth from underprivileged communities the Alpha Youth Leadership Academy (AYLA), which he co-founded with support from the University of Texas at El Paso and the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso. AYLA aims to help youth living in housing communities become happy, healthy, engaged, and self-sufficient adults by presenting them with structured opportunities to develop the skills necessary to learn effectively and independently, compete professionally and at high levels, and experience core human values while providing leadership within their communities.

**Ashli Owen-Smith**

Ashli Owen-Smith, Ph.D., S.M., is a Behavioral Scientist with research interests in mental health, chronic pain, and other chronic conditions, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes. She is particularly interested in developing and evaluating collaborative care interventions centered on health care coordination, as well as complementary and alternative therapies for complex conditions with mental and physical causes and manifestations. Dr. Owen-Smith's research aims to identify questions that are relevant and important to patients and to prioritize the translation of research findings into clinical practice. Accordingly, she is interested in patient-centered research and utilizing patient-reported outcomes. Dr. Owen-Smith works closely with patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other health care stakeholders and is interested in employing qualitative and mixed methods.

**Irene Park**

Irene Park, Ph.D., is currently an Assistant Research Professor of Clinical Psychology for the Department of Psychiatry at the Indiana University School of Medicine, South Bend. Broadly, Dr. Park's research focuses on sources of risk and resilience in the mental health of immigrant and racial/ethnic minority populations. Using an ecological approach, Dr. Park seeks to understand the sociocultural contexts in which ethnic minority youth reside, particularly the contexts of culture and family as they relate to youth's mental health. Currently, Dr. Park is investigating the role of racial/ethnic discrimination as one factor contributing to mental health disparities among Latino adolescents, with a focus on mediating mechanisms (e.g., anger regulation) and risk and protective factors (e.g., ethnic identity) in the discrimination-mental health link; this research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Park received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She completed a National Institute of Health-funded postdoctoral research fellowship through the Family Research Consortium at the University of California, Davis, focusing on family processes and child/adolescent mental health in diverse contexts. Dr. Park was on the faculty in the Psychology Department at the University of Notre Dame for 10 years before joining the faculty at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 2013.

**Jennifer Payne**

Jennifer Shepard Payne, Ph.D is an Assistant Professor in the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences at Azusa Pacific University. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); masters in social work from California State University, Long Beach; and her Ph.D. from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., she was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for many years. Her strong clinical background as a Psychiatric Social Work Supervisor, working primarily in resource-poor communities, led to her interest in research to assist underrepresented populations. Dr. Payne was the Principal

Investigator of the Clergy Depressive Counseling Survey and the Urban Pastor's Project, two studies that solicited information from pastors about their beliefs and treatment practices surrounding mental health and wellness topics. Her long-term goal is to develop a culturally influenced train-the-trainer intervention for clergy first-responders to decrease the emotional effects of trauma exposure in violent urban communities. Considering that only 57% of individuals who meet the criteria for PTSD receive service for their symptoms, there is a population of individuals who suffer silently with trauma-related issues. In spite of this, few evidence-based interventions exist to address the trauma African American families go through in resource-poor, violent neighborhoods. Thus, the findings from Dr. Payne's previous studies will inform the creation of a trauma intervention for clergy and laity who act as default first-responders in violent urban communities.

**Hector Perez**

Hector R. Perez, M.D., M.S., is a Primary Care Physician and Junior Investigator at Montefiore Medical Center at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. After graduating from the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, he completed his residency in Primary Care and Social Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center. Subsequently, he obtained his M.S. in Translational Research at the New York University School of Medicine. His research focus over the last 10 years has been on health disparities and primary care for the underserved. He is currently researching the association between race and ethnicity on pain

management approaches and pain outcomes in a cohort of patients with HIV and chronic pain. He is also preparing a career development award application to study strategies for tapering opioids in a sample of diverse patients at elevated risk for overdose from prescription opioids.

**Jacques Philip**

Jacques B. Philip, M.D., was educated in Paris, but made Alaska his home to fulfill his passion for dog mushing. Jacques took this passion to the extreme, becoming a renowned international competitor for over 2 decades. After retiring from competitive mushing, he reintegrated into the scientific field through the Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR) at University of Alaska, Fairbanks, (UAF) in 2008. This was a good match because the health of Alaska Natives is in many ways related to their culture and traditions, which are exemplified by mushing. In 2010, Dr. Philip was offered the opportunity to obtain graduate training in statistics and epidemiology, which he completed successfully at UAF and the University of Michigan, and which served him well as a member of the Experimental Design, Biostatistics, and Data Services core at CANHR. During that time, Dr. Philip focused his research interests on the social determinants and prevention of health disparities experienced by Alaska Natives, particularly regarding mental health outcomes, such as suicide and alcohol use disorders. In 2015, a Mountain West Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network visiting scholar grant allowed him to gain experience in the collection and analysis of qualitative data. His current research evaluates how locally driven cultural activities interact with evidence-based suicide prevention programs in rural Alaska Native communities.

**Makia Powers**

Makia Powers is a board-certified pediatrician who completed her undergraduate degree in Biology at Spelman College, her medical degree at Morehouse School of Medicine, and her pediatric residency at Boston Children's Hospital Boston Medical Center. She received a Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University and completed a general academic fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. She joined the faculty at Boston University Medical Center in 2008 as the clinical director of the Adolescent Center and co-director of the Teen and Tot program. Her public health interests are in the areas of program development and policy implementation impacts on adolescent health in medically underserved areas. In 2011, she completed a Health Policy Leadership Fellowship at the David Satcher Health Leadership Institute. She is an assistant professor and assistant clerkship director at the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. In her faculty role, she developed a Health Policy and Advocacy curriculum for the Morehouse Community Pediatrics Residency Program and the Simulation Curriculum for the Pediatric Clerkship. In 2015, she was accepted as a KL2 fellow in the Mentored Clinical and Translational Research Scholars Program at the Atlanta Center for Translational Science Institute, and is pursuing a Master's of Science in Clinic Research at Morehouse School of Medicine. The title of her research is, "Hypertension Prevalence and Perceptions in Black College Men." She currently balances her time by volunteering at her church and performing as a classically trained ballet dancer in a local company.

**Lesliam Quiros-Alcala**

Lesliam Quiros-Alcala is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health in the Maryland Institute of Applied Environmental Health. She is also affiliate faculty in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Quiros-Alcala earned a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and an M.Sc. in Safety Engineering/Industrial Hygiene from Texas A&M University. She obtained her Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, where her doctoral work was supported by an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency STAR Fellowship and focused on evaluating environmental exposures among low-income Latino urban and farmworker children, validating a biomarker of pesticide exposure, and investigating the effects of pesticides on farmworker children's autonomic nervous systems. Her research focuses on children's environmental health and, more broadly, environmental exposures and their potential health effects in highly vulnerable populations, including mothers; children; low-income, underserved, minority communities; and occupational populations. Dr. Quiros-Alcala's research interests also include designing and implementing culturally appropriate interventions to mitigate environmental exposures and minimize the risk of potentially adverse health outcomes in these populations.

**Alixida Ramos-Pibernus**

Alixida Ramos-Pibernus is Clinical Psychology Doctor, a licensed Rehabilitation Counselor, and an Early Career Researcher. Dr. Ramos-Pibernus is a project director of a National Institute of Mental Health-funded research project titled, "Physicians and Health-Related Services for Male to Female Transgender Persons." She has several peer review publications in journals, such as *Global Public Health*; *Journal of Homosexuality*; and the *Puerto Rican Journal of Psychology, Health & Society*; among others. She has also presented her work at multiple national and international scientific conferences. In addition, Dr. Ramos-Pibernus has been an active advocate for the rights of transgender populations in Puerto Rico. Dr. Ramos-Pibernus has specialized on gender issues and social determinants of health among vulnerable populations, particularly Latino transgender men and butch women in the Puerto Rican context. Her current research agenda focuses on understanding the role of individual and structural factors in the development of reproductive cancer on Latino transgender populations.



Rosemay Remigio-Baker

Rosemay Ambata Remigio-Baker received her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology, her M.P.H. from the San Diego State University School of Public Health, and her B.S. in Biochemistry and Cell Biology (with a minor in Psychology) from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Dr. Remigio-Baker has lived in diverse countries, such as the Philippines, Nigeria, and the United States, which cultivated her research interests on health equity and minority health, and her participation in outreach activities that serve immigrants and ethnic minority populations, including Filipinos, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, East African immigrants, and Latinos. Dedicated to reducing the burden of depression, Dr. Remigio-Baker’s research focuses on identifying disparities in the relationship between depression and poor health outcomes, such as obesity, sedentary behavior, smoking, and binge drinking. Her outreach participation centers on reducing stigma among ethnic minority communities and promoting culturally specific programs to address depression. Her leadership roles include being an organizer and presenter for the Kalusugan at Kalakasan Center for Health and Wellness, which serves the San Diego, CA, Asian and Pacific Islander communities; the American Heart Association Early Career Committee; and the UCSD Public Health Research Day. Dr. Remigio-Baker is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow with the UCSD Division of Global Health Tobacco Project where she led the writing of the California Health Interview Survey report chapters, and is currently developing manuscripts and proposals regarding health disparities in the association between mental distress and smoking prevalence and cessation.



LaShanta Rice

LaShanta Rice, Ph.D., M.P.H., conducts research on examining psychosocial and environmental processes and spatial context of health disparities in cancer. She uses socio-behavioral concepts and theoretical tenets to design and implement efficacious interventions in community and primary care settings. Dr. Rice utilizes community-based participatory research principles and geographical information systems to identify vulnerable neighborhoods and groups, investigate emerging and existing health threats, and develop sustainable strategies to inform and meet the unmet health needs in economically distressed and minority communities. Currently, she is exploring the impact of social networks on health decision making, risk-taking behaviors, and quality of life after a chronic disease diagnosis. Dr. Rice received her Ph.D. in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior from the University of South Carolina’s Arnold School of Public Health where she was an Environmental Protection Agency Science to Achieve Results Fellow. Dr. Rice is an Assistant Professor in Mental Health Disparities and Diversity in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina, and serves as the Regional Coordinating Co-Director for the Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities Region 1—South.



Maria Rodriguez

Maria Isabel Rodriguez completed her medical degree and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Oregon Health University. She then completed a fellowship in family planning at University of California, San Francisco, where she received an M.P.H. from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research aims to promote evidence-based policy and clinical guidelines, particularly in the area of contraceptive information and services. She is particularly interested in implementation research to understand how complex interventions impact health outcomes. Domestically, Dr. Rodriguez has focused on the impact of policy on reproductive health outcomes and disparities among the Medicaid population. Internationally, her work has focused on human rights and contraception, postpartum and post abortion contraception, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and the promotion of safe access to abortion care.



Tawandra Rowell-Cunsolo

Tawandra L. Rowell-Cunsolo, Ph.D., M.A., is an Assistant Professor of Social Welfare Science at the Columbia University School of Nursing. She received her M.A. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University, and a doctorate in Social Welfare from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rowell-Cunsolo completed her postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Science Research in HIV Infection at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at the New York Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University. Dr. Rowell-Cunsolo is interested in the role of incarceration, substance abuse, and sexual behavior in HIV acquisition and transmission in vulnerable populations. She has been the principal investigator for numerous National Institutes of Health-funded studies, examining risk behaviors and health outcomes among vulnerable populations. She has completed studies examining the feasibility and acceptability of the “seek, test, and treat” strategy among urban populations, and HIV risk behaviors among formerly incarcerated Black Americans. Dr. Rowell-Cunsolo is currently developing antiretroviral adherence interventions for formerly incarcerated individuals.



Lindsay Sheehan

Lindsay Sheehan, Ph.D., is Senior Research Associate at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. She manages a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute-funded research project on community-based participatory research for African Americans with serious mental illness. Dr. Sheehan is especially interested in developing a research program on peer services as a means to reduce ethnic health disparities for individuals with psychiatric disability. She worked for over a decade as a community mental health provider before receiving her doctoral degree in psychology.



Olayinka Shiyabola

Olayinka Shiyabola, Ph.D., B.Pharm., is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, Social and Administrative Sciences Division. She received her B.Pharm. from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Socioeconomics from the University of Iowa. Her general research area of interest is the utilization of patient perspectives to improve medication use, patient outcomes, and quality of care. Dr. Shiyabola examines patient perceptions and roles in the quality of medication use and its impact on medication adherence, health literacy, and the elimination of health disparities. Specifically, Dr. Shiyabola studies the perceptions of illness and medicines among underserved populations. She explores how to utilize and interweave patient perspectives into the development of tailored, patient-centered medication use interventions. In her other areas of interests, Dr. Shiyabola is empirically redesigning prescription warnings and exploring how pharmacy quality measures can be utilized by patients. She utilizes sociobehavioral and health psychology theories in her studies, employing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches in her work. Dr. Shiyabola was a 2015-16 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Mixed Methods Research Training Program Scholar. In 2016, she received a NIH KL2 Career Development Award.

**Larkin Strong**

Larkin Strong is an Assistant Professor for the Department of Health Disparities Research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Her research focuses on improving cancer preventive behaviors in minority and underserved populations, with a particular emphasis on physical activity, by examining and attempting to intervene upon the social, cultural, and environmental factors associated with these behaviors. Her research program is supported by funding from MD Anderson, the American Cancer Society, and the National Institutes of Health. She is currently the principal investigator (PI) of a study to adapt a theoretically based intervention to increase physical activity and healthy eating for delivery by community health workers to Latino family dyads. She received a career development award from the American Cancer Society to facilitate her training and investigation in the social, cultural, and environmental influences of physical activity in diverse populations, as well as the pathways through which these factors affect behavior. Dr. Strong is also the PI of a pilot study involving a social support intervention to promote physical activity in African American and Latina women enrolled as social network dyads. Finally, she serves as a co-investigator on a Community Networks Program Center grant funded through the National Cancer Institute that aims to reduce cancer-related disparities in Latinos across three regions of Texas, with a particular emphasis on increasing physical activity and fruit and vegetable intake.

**Andrew Subica**

Andy Subica is an Assistant Professor and Health Disparities Researcher at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine's Center for Healthy Communities (CHC). His research is grounded in the principles of social justice and public participation, utilizing community-based participatory research methods to improve evidence-based treatments, services, and public policies for vulnerable populations, including persons of color, public mental health consumers, trauma survivors, and refugees. Currently, he is collaborating with community partners to address the root causes of health disparities in low-income communities of color through grassroots organization and citizen-led environmental and policy change. He is also exploring mental health and substance use perspectives, needs, and service barriers among Pacific Islanders. Prior to joining the CHC, Dr. Subica served as a senior research associate in community psychology and action research at Loyola Marymount University's Psychology Applied Research Center. He also trained as a translational sciences scholar in serious mental illness at the University of Southern California's Clinical and Translational Science Institute, and was a postdoctoral clinical fellow in psychiatric rehabilitation at the Doris A. Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**Salman Tajuddin**

Salman Tajuddin, Ph.D., M.D., M.P.H., joined the Health Disparities Research Section (HDRS), Laboratory of Epidemiology and Population Sciences at the National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, as a visiting postdoctoral fellow. At the HDRS, Dr. Tajuddin is working on identifying genetic susceptibility factors for subclinical atherosclerosis development; variations in peripheral blood cells and markers of inflammation in the Healthy Aging in Neighborhoods of Diversity across the Life Span study; and other multi-ethnic, international, collaborative genetics research consortia. His interests include cardiovascular diseases, age-related health disparities, and genetic epidemiology. He is also investigating the role of personal and social parameters on accelerated epigenetic aging in African Americans and whites. Dr. Tajuddin earned his M.D. from Jimma University, his M.P.H. from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and his Ph.D. in Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology from the Spanish National Cancer Research Center and Autonomous University of Madrid. His doctoral work focused on assessing the contribution of epigenetic modifications and germline genetic variants, and their interplay with environmental factors in the risk and progression of urothelial bladder cancer.

**Junko Takeshita**

Junko Takeshita, Ph.D., M.D., M.S.C.E., is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. He completed his combined M.D. and Ph.D. in molecular cell biology at Washington University in St. Louis, dermatology residency training at the University of Washington in Seattle, and M.S.C.E. from the University of Pennsylvania. His clinical and research interests are focused on chronic inflammatory diseases of the skin, namely psoriasis and eczema. Broadly, he is dedicated to advancing health and health care disparities awareness and research in the field of dermatology. He received a K23 award from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to study racial disparities in the treatment of psoriasis using a mixed methods approach. Through his research, he hopes to improve the treatment of and health outcomes for patients with psoriasis and other dermatologic diseases.



Athena Tapales

Athena Tapales has a doctorate in social demography from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, an M.A. in public policy from the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Tapales is currently a Senior Research Scientist at the Guttmacher Institute and a leading voice in sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States and globally through research, public education, and policy analysis. She has a long-standing interest in studying the sexual and reproductive health of foreign-born women. It is estimated that between 1965 and 2015, new immigrants, their children, and their grandchildren will account for 55% of the country's population growth. Recognition of this record-breaking pattern, which closely mirrors immigration trends in the early 20th century, has resulted in an increased focus on the health behaviors and outcomes of the foreign-born. Most often, immigrant women are likely to be young, low-income, and women of color. These demographics, when studying native-born women, are often linked to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. A methodical documentation of the sexual and reproductive health disparities of immigrant women at the population level is currently missing in the literature, making it a critical area of study with implications not just for individual women, but also for their families, communities, and the larger American society.



Courtney Thomas

Courtney S. Thomas, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences in the Fielding School of Public Health and Faculty Associate of the Bunche Center for African American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Thomas earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Vanderbilt University and was a UCLA President's Postdoctoral Fellow prior to joining the faculty. A trained medical sociologist, Thomas uses mixed-method and transdisciplinary approaches to examine psychosocial sources of risk and resilience and their impact on the psychophysiological health across Black American lifespans. Dr. Thomas' research focuses on the conceptualization and assessment of race-based stress and coping experiences among the Black American population. In one study, Dr. Thomas found that experiencing subtle or ambiguous discrimination increases Black Americans' risk of poor psychological and physiological functioning and may be more detrimental than blatant discriminatory treatment. This work motivated Dr. Thomas' research, *Racial Self-Awareness Framework of Race-Based Stress, Coping, and Health*, which spotlights racial self-awareness (RSA), the heightened sense of awareness of one's racial minority status within a majority context. Results from a recent qualitative study suggest that: (1) RSA represents physically and emotionally taxing cognitive effort, (2) RSA shapes Black Americans' perceptions of and responses to general and race-based stressors, and (3) Black Americans employ a range of behavioral coping strategies to reduce the strain of RSA. Dr. Thomas is currently developing new survey measures to assess the health consequences of RSA, other race-based stress, and coping experiences within nationally representative samples of Black Americans.

**Omolara Uwemedimo**

Omolara Thomas Uwemedimo is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Population Health at Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine. Dr. Uwemedimo has worked as a pediatrician in low-income countries including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, and South Africa. These experiences fostered her research in preventive health service disparities among poor, minority children globally and among the U.S. child immigrant population. Her current research examines how psychosocial adversity, unmet social needs, and family structure contribute to disparities in health care access and utilization of preventive health services among minority children. Dr. Uwemedimo intends to use these findings to inform the development and evaluation of clinic-based, culturally tailored interventions to address social determinants and increase immigrant children's use of preventive health care. Dr. Uwemedimo works clinically as an attending pediatrician in the general outpatient pediatrics clinic at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York (CCMCNY), serving mostly minority children from immigrant families. Dr. Uwemedimo is also the founding director of the Global Pediatrics Program at CCMCNY, providing medical and M.P.H. students and pediatric residents with research opportunities in global and immigrant child health, domestically and internationally. She is on the Global Health National Steering Committee of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors and is an active member of the global health sections of the Academic Pediatric Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. She also serves as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Pediatrics*, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, and *Global Health Action Journal*.

**Katherine Vickery**

Kate Diaz Vickery is a primary care physician and researcher from Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Vickery has fostered an interest in community-partnered approaches to clinical care and research since medical school at the University of Rochester. She completed residency training in family medicine while conducting community-partnered health improvement projects at United Family Medicine, a community health center in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Vickery completed a fellowship in research through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at University of Michigan. During fellowship, she began a mixed methods study to evaluate the impact of the Hennepin Health, a Minneapolis-based accountable care organization working to connect the delivery of health care with behavioral health and social services. Dr. Vickery's research interests center on if and how payment reform may stimulate adaptations to the health care delivery system to better serve the needs of disparity populations. Dr. Vickery is interested in how medical, behavioral, and social risk factors compound to produce disparate health outcomes. Ultimately, she hopes to design cross-sector interventions to meet the diverse needs of disparities populations. Alongside her research, Dr. Vickery delivers primary care to complex patients at HCMC's Coordinated Care Center, an ambulatory intensive care unit for adults with frequent emergency department visits and/or hospitalizations. Dr. Vickery lives in St. Paul, MN, and enjoys travel, gardening, and reading books with her children.



Kathy Wright

Kathy Denise Wright, Ph.D., R.N., G.C.N.S.-B.C., P.M.H.C.N.S.-B.C., is an early stage career nursing scientist at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Wright studies stress and coping in African American older adults and was awarded a pilot grant under the National Institute of Nursing Research-funded P30 Center of Excellence in Self-Management Research. As a principal investigator of pilot studies, Dr. Wright has experience designing and testing interventions to reduce blood pressure in prehypertensive African Americans. She has experience in the use of brain imaging (fMRI) and designing experiments to identify neural network processing associated with self-management. She has used biomarkers of allostatic load and acute and chronic stress in her research and is currently conducting a study of chronic stress, allostatic load, and health outcomes in low income African American older adults using a hair cortisol concentration analysis. Dr. Wright was a co-investigator on two federally funded care management trials where she led an interdisciplinary team that designed, delivered, and monitored chronic disease self-management interventions for hypertension, stroke, and diabetes in older adults. She also led an interdisciplinary team that used geographic information systems to gather census track data to describe factors that influence health outcomes in low income older adults. Her goal is to address health disparities by advancing the science of self-management and illuminating the impact of neurobiological, psychosocial, and social stressors/buffers on self-management behaviors and health outcomes in African American elders with hypertension.