

# NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health  
and Health Disparities

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## 2019 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar Biographies



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on Minority Health  
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## Adewole S. Adamson, MD, MPP

Dr. Adewole (Ade) S. Adamson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine (Division of Dermatology) at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and received his medical doctorate and Master in Public Policy at Harvard as a Zuckerman Fellow. While in medical school he spent a year at NIH in the Clinical Research Training Program. He completed specialty training in dermatology at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. He is a health services researcher interested in improving the quality of care delivered to patients. He aims to understand patterns of health care utilization, including underuse and overuse, in dermatology. More specifically he is interested in how effectively, efficiently, and equitably the health care system delivers care to patients with skin cancer, the most common type of cancer in the United States. His long-term goal is to become an independent

researcher that improves the quality of care delivered to skin cancer patients, with a focus on identifying interventions that could improve outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations.

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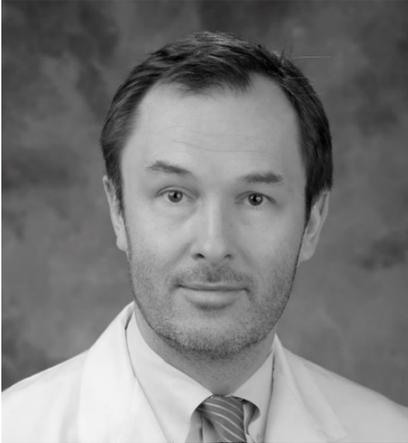


## Adam C. Alexander, PhD

Dr. Adam Alexander is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dr. Alexander holds a doctoral degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Memphis School of Public Health and a master's degree in General Psychology, also from the University of Memphis. Dr. Alexander's research addresses tobacco use and physical and mental health among Black Americans. His research also examines the effect of traumatic events on tobacco use and physical and mental health. Overall, Dr. Alexander seeks to understand the behavioral, cultural, socioeconomic, and biological determinants of physical and mental health, with an emphasis on examining and explaining health disparities. Dr. Alexander's current research investigates whether colorism affects smoking behavior and cessation. Colorism, which is prejudice based on skin color, is an understudied area of discrimination, and Dr. Alexander is exploring

whether darker skin color is associated with smoking and poor cessation outcomes. Dr. Alexander is also investigating whether childhood adversity affects smoking behavior and cessation.

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### Michael H. Andreae, MD

Dr. Michael H. Andreae is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA. Currently, he holds the Donald E. Martin Professorship, a career development endowment. Broadly trained in critical care, regional anesthesia, and perioperative echocardiography, Dr. Andreae is now clinically focusing on regional anesthesia. In 2015, he completed his NIH funded mentored research training on Bayesian statistics for hierarchical modeling of long-term outcomes, culminating in a Master of Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences from Columbia University. His immersion in healthcare disparity research resulted in refined notions of mechanisms, methods and instruments for rigorous clinical, healthcare service, and outcomes research. Dr. Andreae

wants to make the case for health equity to all perioperative stakeholders. He wants to elicit the perspectives of patients, their families and communities on leveraging the electronic medical record for health disparity research and interventions. In addition, Dr. Andreae is developing precise individual provider performance metrics, derived from the EMR and documenting perioperative disparities in care, to investigate the granular mechanisms leading to disparities down to the individual provider, team and unit with a view to impact behavior with real-time clinical decision support and individualized feedback.

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### Edwin N. Aroke, PhD, CRNA

Dr. Edwin N. Aroke is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he has been a faculty member since 2017. Dr. Aroke trained as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) at Duke University and earned a PhD in nursing science with a focus in Pharmacogenetics from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Aroke's current and future research focuses on two broad, yet related areas: 1) Understanding how genomic and epigenomic differences affect chronic pain and patients' response to medications and 2) creating and evaluating innovative interventions to reduce disparities in chronic pain. His current studies are funded by the UAB Dean's

Scholar Award, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation, and the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and utilizes an epigenomic approach to examine racial disparities in chronic low back pain. Dr. Aroke is an Associate Scientist at the UAB Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center and the Comprehensive Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, Bone, and Autoimmune Center (CAMBAC). Besides his teaching and research roles, Dr. Aroke practices as a CRNA at the UAB Hospital. Dr. Aroke holds membership in several professional organizations, including the American Pain Society, International Society of Nurses in Genetics, and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Dr. Aroke has presented at several national and international conferences, authored many peer-review papers, and serves as a peer reviewer for Molecular Pain, Nursing Research, and Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing, among others.

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## Romina L. Barral, MD, MSCR

Dr. Romina L. Barral is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Research Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas and a pediatrician specializing in adolescent medicine at Children's Mercy Kansas City. She received her medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires and completed her pediatric residency training at Children's Hospital of Michigan and adolescent medicine fellowship at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She completed a Global Health Certificate at Wayne State University and a career development fellowship for minorities at the Institute of Clinical Research Education, University of Pittsburgh during her clinical training. During her current appointment, she completed a Master of Science in clinical research from the University of Kansas. Dr. Barral's research focuses on disparities in access to reproductive health care and education among rural Latino teens. Findings from her work have revealed multiple layers of physical and sociocultural obstacles that this population faces in accessing family planning services. In 2014,

Dr. Barral received the Outstanding Service Award from the Juntos Research Center for Advancing Latino Health and in 2015, the Young Investigator Award from the Society for Pediatric Research, and the Frontiers Scholarship from the Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

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## Gilberte Bastien, PhD

Dr. Gilberte ("Gigi") Bastien is a Clinical Psychologist and Haiti native and currently serves as Associate Director for the Office of Global Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine and is an Assistant Professor within MSM's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Bastien's research and clinical interests focus on the intersection of culture and mental health with the aim of improving accessibility, acceptability, and efficacy of mental health services for underserved populations. Dr. Bastien's complementary interests in disaster mental health and global mental health capacity building were largely influenced by her involvement in the mental health response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. As a former Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI) health policy postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Bastien gained invaluable training in health leadership and the use of effective strategies for advancing policy solutions to mental health and broader health disparities both domestically and globally. This training was brought to bear in completing an NIH Fogarty Global Health Fellowship project in collaboration with the Carter Center's

Mental Health Program in Liberia. This project focused on understanding mental health and resilience in Ebola affected communities in Liberia. Dr. Bastien's experiences during the Fogarty fellowship further strengthened her view of humanitarian emergencies as potential pathways to addressing mental health disparities in resource constrained settings.

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## Jagriti 'Jackie' Bhattarai, PhD

Dr. Jagriti 'Jackie' Bhattarai is a Research and Clinical Postdoctoral Fellow in the Division for Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She received her PhD and MS in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas. As a National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society fellow in her third year of the Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research in the MS Research Lab, she is specializing in MS, other chronic health conditions, and racial health disparities. Dr. Bhattarai is working toward her long-term goal of becoming an established researcher in racial health disparities in MS and obtaining board-certification in Rehabilitation Psychology. Dr.

Bhattarai received the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Health Disparities Solutions pilot award, funded by NIMHD, to examine place- and race-based disparities related to patient health literacy and patient-provider communication. Dr. Bhattarai's research to date has revealed disparities in psychological symptoms that persist regardless of socioeconomic background among African Americans and whites with MS. She is currently in the process of resubmitting a K23 Career Development application to investigate modifiable health and healthcare factors that contribute to racial health disparities in the MS population.

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## Lisa M. Blair, PhD, RNC-NIC

Dr. Lisa M. Blair is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. She received her PhD in Nursing with an interdisciplinary graduate specialization in Quantitative Research Methods from Ohio State University. Prior to completing her PhD, Dr. Blair was a member of the 2016 Summer Genetics Institute at the National Institute of Nursing Research. She holds a BSN from Ohio University, an Associate Degree in Nursing from Sinclair College and registered nursing licensure in Ohio and Virginia. Dr. Blair is a neonatal intensive care nurse specialist (RNC-NIC) with clinical experience working with critically and chronically ill infants. Her predoctoral research examined social and genomic perinatal risk factors for preterm birth and long-term cognitive outcomes

after low birthweight. Dr. Blair's research revealed relationships between preterm birth, race, inflammatory cytokines, and sleep quality and won an award at the National Institute of Nursing Research 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium. Dr. Blair's current research focuses on cognitive and behavioral outcomes in rural Appalachian children after fetal opioid and polysubstance exposure.

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## Jessika Bottiani, PhD, MPH

Dr. Jessika Bottiani is an Assistant Professor at the Curry School of Education and Human Development at the University of Virginia. Dr. Bottiani earned her master's in public health and her PhD in mental health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her primary research interests center on policy and practice solutions to advance equitable, safe, and supportive public schools. Her work focuses on structural racism as a cause and consequence of racial disparities in exclusionary school

discipline practices, highlighting the need to intervene at multiple levels within school systems. Dr. Bottiani collaboratively develops and tests preventive interventions with a team of researchers at the University of Virginia, Johns Hopkins University, and local schools in Maryland and Virginia to help build teacher and school police officer skills to reduce reliance on exclusionary discipline. Her writings cover topics related to barriers and promoters of intervention effectiveness in closing racial discipline gaps. Dr. Bottiani is a co-investigator on multiple federally funded research initiatives, including several school-level cluster randomized trials funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the National Institute of Justice. She serves on the editorial board of *School Psychology Review*.

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## Rosana L. Bravo, PhD, MPH

Dr. Rosana Bravo is an Assistant Professor in the College of Health Sciences at Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU). She earned her PhD at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and an MPH in Health Education from California State University, Northridge. Her research interests lie on the disparities associated with minority health, health care experience, decision-making, and end-of-life care in communities of color, primarily the underuse of hospice. She is a mixed-methods social

scientist and has worked on multiple health disparities projects in communities of color: aging-related, cancer, and palliative care. Before joining WesternU, Dr. Bravo served on community-based participatory projects at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR) and the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. In her last project at CHPR, she evaluated the Healthy Aging Partnerships in Prevention Initiative (HAPPI), a multi-component research project aimed at increasing the use of clinical preventive services in South Los Angeles among Latino and African American elders. Her current research explains how Latino culture influences complex medical decision-making among foreign-born Latinos elders with multimorbidities, mainly by understanding the interplay between modes of communication, explanatory models of illness, and faith. Findings were presented in the American Public Health Association annual conference.

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## Kim Brimhall, PhD, CSW, MSW

Dr. Kim Brimhall is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at the College of Community and Public Affairs and a Faculty Fellow of the Bass Center for Leadership Studies in the School of Management at Binghamton University the State University of New York. Dr. Brimhall received her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University-Hawaii in psychology and organizational behavior, her master's degree from Brigham Young University Utah in social work, and a doctorate in social work from the University of Southern California. Dr. Brimhall's research focuses on improving the quality of health care services through creating socially just, equitable, and inclusive health care work

environments. Research shows that organizations who foster highly effective organizational climates experience the benefits of improved employee retention, innovation, performance, and ultimately quality of care offered to patients. Dr. Brimhall has been awarded highly competitive national funding from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and has published in journals such as *Psychiatric Services*, *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, and *Nonprofit Management & Leadership*.

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## Angel S. Byrd, MD, PhD

Dr. Angel S. Byrd is an Assistant Professor at Howard University College of Medicine and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Departments of Dermatology). She was born and raised in Edwards and Jackson, Mississippi. She obtained her bachelor's in science from Tougaloo College and medical degree and doctorate from Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She completed an Ethnic Skin Postdoctoral Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM). Her work centers on the establishment of tissue biobanks to understand the immunopathological mechanisms contributing to ethnic skin diseases, particularly among African American patients with hidradenitis suppurativa. Her main research focus is elucidating the unreported roles of neutrophils and the innate immunity in the induction of local and systemic immune dysregulation. Dr. Byrd leads multidisciplinary collaborative projects with the overarching goal of establishing a scientifically-driven approach to treatment options for patients suffering from these debilitating diseases. She has contributed to

the scientific literature, given numerous lectures, national/international talks, and has been featured on the *BET 33rd Annual UNCF An Evening of Stars®* international program, recognizing her as one who is "changing the face of science, one mind at a time."

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## Clare E. B. Cannon, PhD

Dr. Clare E. B. Cannon is an Assistant Professor of Human Ecology at the University of California, Davis and a Research Fellow in the Department of Social Work at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. She received her PhD in Sociology from Tulane University and an MA in Social Ethics from Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University. Dr. Cannon's research focuses on the production, location, and distribution of socio-environmental inequalities, particularly related to environmental health. Her emphasis is on applying feminist approaches using multiple methods,

including spatial, quantitative, qualitative, and exposure sciences to identify how, why, and to what extent socio-environmental inequalities exist and persist. Dr. Cannon's research interests also includes social determinants and effects of disasters and climate change, socio-ecological interactions, and causes and consequences of intimate partner violence. Findings from Dr. Cannon's work have revealed racial, socioeconomic, and gender disparities in landfill location and distribution, and has evaluated policy implications of predominant intimate partner violence treatment programs. In 2018, Dr. Cannon won a pilot grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Core Center program to conduct community-engaged research into environmental effects in the Central Valley of California.

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## Yelba M. Castellon-Lopez, MD, MSHPM

Dr. Yelba M. Castellon-Lopez is an Assistant Clinical Professor in Family Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She received her medical degree from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and completed her clinical training in Family Medicine at the UCLA Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Castellon-Lopez went on to complete a postdoctoral research fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at UCLA and earned a Master of Science in Health Policy and Management from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Dr. Castellon-Lopez's research interests include community-partnered research, the disease trajectory of diabetes, immigrant Latino health, social determinants of health, and addressing health disparities. Dr. Castellon-Lopez was born in Nicaragua and immigrated to South Los Angeles where she grew up. As a clinical investigator, she utilizes research as a vehicle to improve the health outcomes of vulnerable populations in her community.

Dr. Castellon-Lopez recently completed a study in partnership with a Los Angeles DHS safety-net clinic utilizing a pharmacist-delivered shared decision-making module to engage low-income Spanish-speaking Latino patients in evidence-based diabetes prevention strategies. In 2019, Dr. Castellon-Lopez received the Impact Fellowship Award from the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA.

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## Elizabeth Chuang, MD, MPH

Dr. Elizabeth Chuang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Social Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. She practices palliative medicine and provides bioethics consultation at Montefiore Medical Center. She earned an MD from New York University School of Medicine in 2005 and an MPH from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health in 2012. Her research focuses on the relationship between clinician-patient-family communication at end of life and disparities in quality of end of life care. Dr. Chuang has

shown that clinicians communicate less frequently with racial and ethnic minority patients around end of life care goals in the hospital. As a part of her Mentored Clinical/Translational Research Career Development Award (KL2), she is currently developing two tools to measure implicit racial bias in clinician communication with patients with serious illness about their values and treatment goals. She aims to develop a targeted communication skills training intervention for physicians to mitigate the effects of implicit bias on patient care. She completed a fellowship in the New York State Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program in 2017. In 2017 she was recognized as a Research Scholar by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

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## Shameka L. Cody, PhD, AGNP-C

Dr. Shameka L. Cody is an Assistant Professor at the Capstone College of Nursing, The University of Alabama. In 2011, she received her Master of Science in Nursing from The University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB). In 2017, she received her PhD in Nursing from UAB. Dr. Cody is a board-certified Adult and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and has extensive clinical experience in Medical/Surgical, Primary Care, and Infectious Disease. Dr. Cody's primary research focuses on the impact of racial and sleep health disparities on antiretroviral (ART) adherence in adults with HIV age 50 and older. Her research trajectory has led to multidisciplinary collaborations to examine integration of HIV care and substance use in rural Alabama. Dr. Cody was selected as a 2018-2019 Health Disparities Research Education Scholar sponsored by the Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR). She was also selected as a 2019 National Institute of Health Future Research Leader, 2019

Butler-Williams Scholar, and recently completed a research initiative in Accra, Ghana. In March 2019, Dr. Cody was awarded RCMAR pilot funding through the National Institute of Aging (NIA) in which she will examine sleep health and electrophysiological measures of neurocognitive function among older (50+) African Americans and Caucasians with HIV.

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## Antoinette B. Coe, PharmD, PhD

Dr. Antoinette (Toni) B. Coe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy. She obtained her PharmD and completed a Community Care Pharmacy Practice Residency at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Pharmacy. She then earned her PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from VCU, where she was also an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Pre-Doctoral Fellow. She completed her postdoctoral training as an Institute for Healthcare

Policy and Innovation Clinician Scholar at the University of Michigan. She is a pharmacist-scientist devoted to improving medication-related outcomes and ensuring safe and effective medication use in vulnerable older adults. Her research focuses on improving older adults' medication use through pharmacist-provided comprehensive medication reviews and addressing disparities in receipt by age, race, and gender; preventing medication-related problems after care transitions in patients at high risk for readmission; and examining the impact of pharmacists' care on health outcomes. She aims to develop a healthcare policy-relevant program of research designing, implementing, and disseminating interventions that mitigate health disparities to improve health. In 2017, Dr. Coe received a University of Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research KL2 award and is a current KL2 scholar.

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## Ricardo Correa, MD, EsD, FACP, FACE, FAPCR, CMQ

Dr. Ricardo Correa is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Fellowship Director at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Staff Clinician and Researcher at Phoenix VAMC. He completed his Medical School and Education Master at University of Panama. Additionally, Dr. Correa completed a research fellowship in Epidemiology and Tropical disease at ICGES in Panama City and his internal medicine residency at the University of Miami. In 2012, he was honored with the AOA and GoldDOC Award. Dr. Correa pursued his clinical and research fellowship in endocrinology with special focus in translational research

at NIH. He has been involved in multiple academic, scientific and educational activities. Dr. Correa has published more than 30 papers in peer review journals, has one NIH grant and is part of multiple scientific journal editorial committees, etc. Also, he is a consultant for some countries in Latin-American science centers. He is board certified in Medical Quality and the author of the book title "Case report: basics and publication". His research is focused on the study of long-term consequences of hormonal replacement therapy on transgender population and using peer support/telemedicine to decrease the burden of diabetes complications in underserved Hispanic population.

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## Maria Teresa Coutinho, PhD

Dr. Maria Teresa Coutinho is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Department of Pediatrics at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Coutinho is a research staff psychologist at Hasbro/Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. Coutinho completed her MA and PhD in Counseling Psychology at Boston College. Prior to joining the faculty at Brown Medical School, Dr. Coutinho completed a research fellowship in pediatric psychology focused on urban and ethnic minority families' sense of empowerment in accessing health care services for their children with asthma. Dr. Coutinho's research focuses on cultural, social and health care system factors that impact urban and ethnic minority children and families' health care utilization. Specifically, Dr. Coutinho's current research focuses on enhancing the transition to adult health care for urban racial and ethnic minority adolescents with asthma, and enhancing health care utilization for Black children with

asthma and their families with the goal of decreasing emergency department use for asthma. Findings from Dr. Coutinho's work reveal an association between urban and ethnic minority caregivers' sense of empowerment and their ability to manage their children's asthma symptoms.

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## Daniel E. Cruz, MD

Dr. Daniel Cruz is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School. He received his MD from Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University. He completed his Internal Medicine training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and went on to complete fellowship training in cardiology and advanced cardiac imaging at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Cruz is a physician scientist and his research focuses on elucidating the pathways that lead to the development of cardiac disease in understudied and underrepresented populations. His key emphasis is on using proteomic and metabolomic technologies to better characterize circulating biomarkers in pre-clinical disease states to model the mechanisms underlying disease progression. In an effort to understand causal pathways, standard genetic techniques, such as Genome-wide Association Studies (GWAS), are used to identify gene—protein—metabolite—phenotype pathways. Confronted with the fact

that GWAS inadequately addresses the unique genomic structure of these understudied populations, he is employing novel admixture fine-mapping strategies which supplement standard genetic techniques. Combining these different methods, Dr. Cruz looks to better define prediction models, precisely gauge prognosis, and more accurately determine therapeutic response in these understudied populations. In recognition of his research work, he is a recipient of the Loan Repayment Program through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and was awarded the Program in Clinical Effectiveness Fellow Award at BIDMC. Dr. Cruz is also an active clinician, maintaining a busy clinical practice in the Boston area.

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## Stephanie N. Del Tufo, PhD

Dr. Stephanie N. Del Tufo is an Assistant Professor in the School of Education in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Delaware. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University in the Peabody College School of Education, Vanderbilt Brain Institute, and Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. She obtained her PhD in the Psychological Sciences from the University of Connecticut and Haskins Laboratories at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Del Tufo is an alumna of Smith College, where she completed her undergraduate education in neuroscience and chemistry. Her work focuses on the neurodevelopment processes that underlie and influence resilience.

She aims to increase childhood resilience by providing targeted early childhood literacy experiences and opportunities to children at socioeconomic disadvantage, minorities, and individuals with developmental learning disabilities. By leveraging the impact of early childhood experiences and opportunities, she aims to reduce the transgenerational transmission of low literacy. Dr. Del Tufo's research interests also include the neurocognitive basis of individual differences in language, learning, and literacy, and how environmental factors alter neurodevelopmental trajectories with age. Findings from her work have revealed that socioeconomic differences "tip the scales" for both typically developing children and those at risk for developmental learning disabilities.

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## Tressa P. Diaz, PhD

Dr. Tressa P. Diaz is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Work, School of Health at the University of Guam (UOG). She received her MSW at Hunter School of Social Work at the City University of New York and her PhD in Social Welfare at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa. She was a U54 doctoral scholar under the University of Guam-University of Hawai'i Cancer Center Partnership and is currently the co-investigator for the U54 Community Outreach Core at the UOG Cancer Research Center. Her research has primarily focused on barriers and access to care in colorectal cancer screening on Guam among Chamorro. Her long-term commitment is to increase cancer survivorship in Guam and across Micronesia through evidence-based prevention and control strategies that optimally involve investigating social determinants of health, cultural health beliefs, culturally appropriate screening education interventions, preservation of indigenous resources, and community-based participatory research.

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## Caleb Esteban, PhD

Dr. Caleb Esteban is an Assistant Professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the Ponce Health Sciences University, and a Postdoctoral Researcher in a Research Faculty Development Program in Human Intersexuality in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus. Dr. Esteban received his PhD and MS in Clinical Psychology from the Albizu University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. They completed three postdoctoral certifications in Distance Education Facilitator, LGBT-Affirmative Psychotherapy, and Sexual Therapy. Dr. Esteban's research focused on gender, sexuality and LGBTAQI+ community. Their current research focuses in understanding how health disparities impact the mental health, well-being and quality of life of intersex people by using biomarkers as proxy measures of health. Dr. Esteban interests also include the construction, translation, adaptation and/or

validation of psychology instruments, and measure the attitudes, knowledge and social distance towards the LGBTAQI+ community. Dr. Esteban received Committee of the Year Award in 2018 for the Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity Committee that they coordinate in the Puerto Rico Psychological Association, and, in 2014, the LGBT Dissertation Scholarship also from the Puerto Rico Psychological Association.

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## Caroline A. Figueroa, MD, PhD

Dr. Caroline Figueroa is a Postdoctoral Scholar at UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare. She obtained her MD degree and PhD degree at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Her PhD research took place at the University of Amsterdam and at the University of Oxford, where she studied cognitive and neurobiological vulnerability factors for recurrence of depression in patients remitted from Major Depressive Disorder. Dr. Figueroa's current research interest is on digital interventions for depression, with an emphasis on developing cutting-edge innovations that tailor to the

needs of underserved populations. She is involved in the analysis, testing, and implementation of digital applications for depression in ethnic minority patients with a focus on Latinx patients. Furthermore, she aims to investigate whether apps that use adaptive learning algorithms, which use patient data to personalize messages, can be more effective in treating depression and diabetes in low-income ethnic minority populations, than interventions with a static (pre-determined) content. Through these innovative projects, she hopes to contribute to improving the impact and efficacy of digital interventions for underserved communities.

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## Maria M. Galano, PhD

Dr. Maria M. Galano is an Assistant Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She received her doctorate in Clinical Science from the University of Michigan and recently completed a President's Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Maryland College Park. Dr. Galano's research focuses on how early-life exposure to violence affects child mental health and development in diverse populations. The goal of her research is to understand how various environmental factors—including family context, social support, and experiences of racism and discrimination—impact exposure to violence as well as shape the development of PTSD and related disorders following exposure to violence. She then aims to translate these findings to improve the effectiveness of current

evidenced-based psychological treatments for children with PTSD, as well as develop preventive interventions for children exposed to chronic violence. Findings from Dr. Galano's work have uncovered ethnic and racial disparities in exposure to domestic violence as well as in violence-related mental health problems. Her research has also uncovered the lasting negative effects of early-life violence exposure on children's mental health and the need for interventions targeted at reducing these long-term effects.

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## David Haynes, PhD

Dr. David Haynes is an Assistant Professor with the Institute for Health Informatics at the University of Iowa. He is a broadly trained health geographer who uses cutting-edge spatial analysis methods to advance our knowledge of health and cancer disparities. He employs GIScience methods and big data tools to answer substantive research questions about disparities and whether dynamics of place (location and time) increases the prevalence of disease in specific sub-populations. GIScience methods—spatial analysis, geocomputation, and geovisualization—are needed to communicate this knowledge to health researchers, practitioners, and broader communities. Dr. Haynes received his PhD in Geography from the University of Iowa. After receiving his degree, he worked as a high-performance

spatial database developer at the Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation. Later, he began his postdoctoral work with the Program in Health Disparities, which is a joint program between the School of Public and Medical School, that focuses on Community Based Participatory Research. Here, Dr. Haynes began his collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health evaluating breast cancer screening rates for under-insured and uninsured populations. Currently, Dr. Haynes has broadened his research agenda to include lung cancer screening and Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions for smoking cessation.

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## Evelyn Hunter, PhD

Dr. Evelyn Hunter is a Licensed Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling at Auburn University. She received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from Auburn and a BA in Psychology from Emory University. Prior to joining Auburn, Dr. Hunter completed an internship in Multicultural Psychology at Georgia Institute of Technology and a postdoctoral fellowship in Health Psychology (specifically neurodegenerative and autoimmune disorders) at Premier Neurology. Additionally, Dr. Hunter trained in quantitative and qualitative methodologies through a research fellowship with the Army Research Institute. Dr. Hunter's research emphasis is on examining pathways by which social experiences impact mental and physical wellness constructs in autoimmune conditions. She is specifically interested in whether mental health is a plausible pathway to explain the relationship between racial stressors and the physiologic disparities of multiple sclerosis in African American patients. Her research program is enhanced by her clinical expertise, and she provides psychological services to patients as a

Care Partner for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2018, Dr. Hunter received the Outstanding Faculty Early Career Award at Auburn, and in 2016 she was one of five early career Psychologists to be selected for the Society of Counseling Psychology Leadership Academy.

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## Amanda E. Janitz, PhD, MPH

Dr. Amanda E. Janitz is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as of 2015. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2006 and Master of Public Health in 2009. Upon graduation, she worked as a Research Nurse in pediatric oncology before returning to the University of Oklahoma in 2010 to complete her doctorate with a goal of contributing to cancer research in Oklahoma. Dr. Janitz is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has worked with tribes or tribal-serving organizations for nine years. She currently serves as co-Project Director of the Cherokee Nation Health Analytics Core, a capacity building project of the Cherokee Nation Native American Research Center for Health. She recently completed a pilot study, as Principal Investigator, focused on estimating the association between benzene exposure and birth defects by race/ethnicity in Oklahoma with a focus on American Indians and Alaska Natives. She is currently a Phase II Scholar on the Clinical Research Education and Career Development (CRECD) Program funded by the National Institute on Minority

Health and Health Disparities. Her research focuses on the epidemiology childhood cancer, environmental epidemiology, and health disparities.

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## Cassandra M. Johnson, PhD, MSPH

Dr. Cassandra M. Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Foods in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at Texas State University. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on policy, systems, and environmental influences on health. She aims to identify new ways to support healthy behaviors related to energy balance (e.g., dietary, activity, stress, and sleep behaviors) for rural, low-income, and Latino families. Dr. Johnson has applied community-based participatory and mixed methods approaches to advance health equity in Texas and North Carolina, and several of her studies have involved collaborations with community-based researchers such as *promotoras* (community health workers who are trained to lead outreach and research activities). Additional research interests include creating behavioral nutrition interventions for family systems, applying innovative research methods involving technology with populations experiencing health

disparities, and measuring community food insecurity. Dr. Johnson received her PhD in Nutrition from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and her MSPH in Social and Behavioral Health from the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health. In 2018, Dr. Johnson's research was recognized with the Impact Award from the UNC Graduate School.

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## Tiffany D. Joseph, PhD

Dr. Tiffany D. Joseph is an Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Northeastern University. She received her BA in Sociology and Ethnic Studies (with honors) at Brown University and her PhD in Sociology at the University of Michigan. She was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Scholar at Harvard University from 2011-2013 and was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Stony Brook University from 2013-2018. Her research explores: race, ethnicity, and migration in the Americas; immigrant and minority health and healthcare access; and the experiences of minority faculty in academia. Her current project explores how documentation status, race, and ethnicity influence the healthcare access and utilization of immigrants after comprehensive health reform. She has received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Science Foundation, Institute for International Education Fulbright Program, Ford Foundation, and Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Dr.

Joseph is author of *Race on the Move: Brazilian Migrants and the Global Reconstruction of Race* (Stanford University Press, 2015) and has also been published in various peer-reviewed journals.

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## Mariano Kanamori, PhD

Dr. Mariano Kanamori is a Latino Epidemiologist working on reducing HIV and Substance Use Disorder disparities faced by Latino populations. Currently, Dr. Kanamori is an Assistant Professor at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He received a PhD in Epidemiology from The University of Maryland and an MA from Georgetown University. Dr. Kanamori incorporates translational research, social network analysis, and community-based participatory research across all of his projects. During his doctoral training funded by NIMHD, he designed, pre-tested, implemented and evaluated a social network HIV prevention program for Latina seasonal workers. Currently, Dr. Kanamori is implementing the second phase of his NIDA K99/R00, which uses social networks to address substance use disorders and HIV risk in Latina seasonal workers. Dr. Kanamori is also implementing a social network study of young Latino MSM and PrEP with funding from CFAR and a PrEP social network intervention for underserved Latinos with funding from NIMHD through the Center for Latino Health Research Opportunities.

He has published twenty-five papers in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored a book chapter on Latino health. His research has been presented at over 50 conferences. He has received 19 research fellowships, prizes and awards for his work in prevention science.

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## Sydney Martinez, PhD, MPH

Dr. Sydney Martinez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) and a member of the Cherokee Nation. She earned her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology followed by a PhD in Epidemiology from OUHSC. Her current research focuses on addressing tobacco- and cancer-related health disparities, primarily in the American Indian population, among individuals with type 2 diabetes, and among low socioeconomic status populations. She is currently a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Clinical Research Education and Career Development (CRECD) Scholar and is conducting pilot research to evaluate and improve the delivery of smoking cessation interventions for patients with type 2 diabetes in primary care settings. She has two Native American Research Centers for Health pilot projects in partnership with Cherokee Nation. One study aims to examine breast cancer patterns of care and outcomes among American Indian women with diabetes and another study aims to optimize smoking cessation interventions for American Indians in diabetes care.

In 2016, Dr. Martinez earned the Paul S. Anderson 2016 Outstanding Student in Epidemiology Award as well as the College of Public Health Outstanding Student Award at OUHSC.

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## Kelly McGlothen-Bell, PhD, RN, IBCLC

Dr. Kelly McGlothen-Bell is a NIDA T32 Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Texas Health San Antonio, School of Nursing. As a nurse scientist, Dr. McGlothen-Bell is dedicated to understanding and resolving perinatal-infant health disparities in underrepresented groups, particularly among mother-infant dyads impacted by preterm birth and substance use disorders. Dr. McGlothen-Bell uses interdisciplinary research, bio-behavioral and methodologies, and community-engaged strategies to define and explore health priorities that can be remedied through culturally appropriate, sustainable and viable health solutions. Her program of science focuses on understanding the relationship between infant feeding behaviors and readiness in high-risk infants and attunement between the primary caregiver and child during infancy and toddlerhood. The culmination of these findings contributes to the development of evidence-based interventions geared toward improving parental engagement and pediatric feeding success in marginalized populations. Dr. McGlothen-Bell has published numerous peer-reviewed articles related to developmental

strategies for high-risk infants. She has also presented at 20 regional, national, and international conferences. Dr. McGlothen-Bell has received numerous awards to include the 2019 National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) Mentee/Mentor Grant Award. She was also selected as a 2017 Emerging Nurse Leader for the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nursing.

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## Susan C. McKernan, DMD, MS, PhD

Dr. Susan McKernan is an Assistant Professor in Preventive and Community Dentistry at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. She holds a secondary appointment at the University of Iowa Public Policy Center, where she collaborates with the Health Policy Research Program. Dr. McKernan received her DMD from the University of Florida and an MS in dental public health from the University of Iowa. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Her doctoral training in health services research at the University of Iowa was supported by an NIDCR-funded T32 training award. She is a current recipient of an NIMHD Loan Repayment award. Dr. McKernan's research is committed to identifying and reducing oral health disparities—especially among rural populations and socioeconomically disadvantaged children. A primary theme of her research is the intersection between geography, dentist workforce, and access to dental care. She is currently developing a grant to evaluate geographical variation in dentists' treatment patterns. She will explore how social networks among dentists affect their use of evidence-based preventive

interventions, including dental sealants and fluoride treatments.

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## Cynthia M. Mojica, PhD

Dr. Cynthia M. Mojica is an Assistant Professor in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State University. She received her PhD in Health Services (now Health Policy and Management) and her MPH in Community Health Sciences from the Fielding School of Public Health, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She completed a postdoctoral fellowship (NIH R25 Career Development Program in Population Based Cancer Prevention and Control) at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCLA and is an alumna of the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F31) from the NCI and the W.K. Kellogg Fellowship in Health Policy Research. Dr. Mojica conducts health services research and program evaluation in cancer

prevention and control with a focus on ethnic minority and underserved populations, particularly Latinos. Her research aims to understand cancer screening behavior, decrease cancer health disparities, and increase access to health care. Her intervention work engages community-based organizations, health centers, and community members, and she has successfully worked with community health workers. Dr. Mojica recently completed a mixed methods study examining disparities in colorectal cancer screening among Oregon's Medicaid population. Currently she has funding to promote catch-up human papilloma virus vaccination among college students.

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## Parvathi A. Myer, MD, MHS

Dr. Parvathi A. Myer is an Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. Dr. Myer completed her Master of Health Science in the Division of Disease Control, International Health at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and her medical degree at the University of California, San Diego. She completed her Internal Medicine residency and Gastroenterology Fellowship at Stanford University. Dr. Myer's research focuses on understanding the molecular genomics of colorectal cancer in African Americans. Her research uses interdisciplinary methods from population genetics, genomics, and epidemiology to understand the molecular differences in colorectal cancer by ancestry. Dr. Myer has presented her work at the European Society of Medical Oncology. She is currently the recipient of the Paul Calabresi K12 Career Development Award for Clinical Oncology, and the recipient of the Loan Repayment Award through the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

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## Gabriela A. Nagy, PhD

Dr. Gabriela A. Nagy is an early-career Faculty Member within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center. In her role, she is engaged in conducting translational research, providing multicultural education across various training programs, and delivering direct clinical care. Dr. Nagy received a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and completed her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral training at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Nagy's primary line of research is broadly focused on increasing Latinx immigrants' access to quality mental health care. Her current NIMHD-funded project is focused on (a) establishing mechanisms and etiology of acculturation stress, behavioral disruption, physiological stress, and depression in Latinx immigrants; and (b) describing facilitators, barriers, and preferences for interventions targeting depression among Latinx immigrants. A secondary line of

research concerns optimizing learning methods in provision of culturally-conscious care. She and her team have developed a training package entitled the Training and Education to Advance Multicultural Mental Healthcare Delivery (the "TEAM Mental Healthcare Delivery Model"). For her work in the area of diversity and inclusion, she was recognized by the Duke University School of Medicine "Michelle Winn Inclusive Excellence Award" in 2018.

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## Rasmi Girijavallabhan Nair, PhD, MBBS

Dr. Rasmi Nair is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Population and Data Sciences at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. She is a cancer epidemiologist with a PhD in Epidemiology from Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Prior to her doctoral degree, Dr. Nair earned a Master of Public Health at Western Kentucky University and completed medical school in India. Her main research interests include assessing disparities in breast, prostate and colorectal cancer screening, using both clinical (electronic health record based and medical claims) and community (outreach program based) databases. As a postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Nair's current work focuses on assessing disparities in guideline-based repeat mammography patterns among underserved and uninsured population in North Texas. In addition to her work as an independent researcher assessing disparities in cancer screening, Dr. Nair also lends epidemiological and biostatistical expertise to clinicians and other healthcare researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

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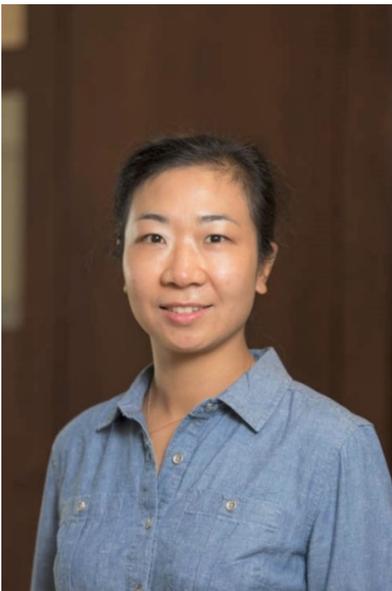


## Timiya S. Nolan, PhD, APRN-CNP

Dr. Timiya S. Nolan is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing's Pitzer Center for Women, Children, and Youth at The Ohio State University (OSU) and Wexner Medical Center. She received her BSN, MSN, and PhD in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Prior to joining OSU faculty, Dr. Nolan completed a postdoctoral fellowship at OSU College of Nursing. Dr. Nolan is a health disparities-focused, nurse scientist studying self-management in prevention and control of chronic conditions (i.e., cancer and cardiovascular disease). Her research interests include identifying/understanding contextual factors of quality of life and health among individuals from underrepresented, underserved populations and translating findings to the development, implementation, and dissemination of culturally-sensitive interventions. Findings from Dr. Nolan's work have informed interventions aimed at improving the quality of life in young African American breast cancer survivors and ideal cardiovascular health in African American men. She is the

recipient of an American Cancer Society Doctoral Degree in Cancer Nursing Scholarship, Komen Graduate Traineeship in Disparities Research, Jonas Nurse Leadership Scholarship, and Coca Cola Critical Difference for Women Grant. In 2017, Dr. Nolan was selected as a National Institutes of Health Future Research Leader.

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## Xi Pan, PhD

Dr. Xi Pan is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Texas State University. She received her PhD in Social Gerontology from Miami University. Prior to joining Texas State, Dr. Pan was a postdoctoral fellow of Public Health at Clemson University and an embedded scholar of the Department of Geriatrics at Greenville Health System, South Carolina. Dr. Pan is a gerontologist whose research focuses on age-related chronic diseases, aging and public health, and health disparities. Her key emphasis is on investigating social, environmental, and behavioral determinants of cognitive health and well-being in later life and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD) in racial/ethnic minorities using advanced quantitative methods. Dr. Pan's research interests also include non-pharmaceutical interventional approaches on dementia prevention and management and dementia caregiver health. Findings from Dr. Pan's work have revealed racial, behavioral, and social disparities in cognitive health, environmental determinants of cognitive decline in racial/ethnic minority older adults, and effectiveness of person-centered interventions on reducing caregiver stress. In 2017, Dr. Pan was selected as an NIH Early Career reviewer. In 2016, Dr. Pan received the travel award from the 23<sup>rd</sup> RAND Summer Institute.

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## Sonal J. Patil, MD, MSPH

Dr. Sonal Patil is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Missouri. She is a health services researcher and family physician interested in building sustainable clinic-community linkage interventions that fill health service gaps and reduce health disparities, particularly related to the cardiovascular disease burden in low-resource communities (underserved and rural). To that end, she has studied: a) the positive effects of community-based lay advisor interventions on cardiovascular health outcomes in predominantly minority participants and rural participants b) use of home blood pressure monitoring to improve hypertension control, and c) effectiveness of youth health coaches to improve self-efficacy and global health of adults with diabetes at an urban underserved and rural location. To further her goals of creating clinic-community linkage interventions, Dr. Patil has current projects studying: 1) how care coordination relates to geographic factors and social determinants of health, and 2) the best-supported health team members to participate in clinic-

community partnership interventions. Her goal is to refine evidence-based multicomponent interventions to pinpoint active intervention components that can effectively bridge the clinic-community partnerships. Dr. Patil has experience conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses. She has several ongoing inter-institutional and interdisciplinary collaborations, and collaborations with local community health champions and local public high schools. She has received funding from the AAFP Foundation and Washington University ICTS KL2 Career Development Awards Program as an ICTS scholar.

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## Maya Ragavan, MD

Dr. Maya Ragavan is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh. She received an MD and MPH from Northwestern University, and then completed her pediatric residency at Stanford and general academic pediatric fellowship at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Ragavan's research focuses on three main areas: 1) preventing adolescent relationship abuse (ARA) among immigrant youth; 2) supporting domestic violence (DV) survivors and their children in pediatric healthcare settings; and 3) developing patient-centered, culturally-sensitive care interventions. During her fellowship, she received an Academic Pediatric Association Bright Futures Young Investigator Award to explore parents' perspectives

about culturally-sensitive well-child care and an American Academy of Pediatrics Community Access to Child Health grant to develop a trauma-informed health education mobile application for mothers who have experienced DV. Recently, she was awarded a KL2 grant from the University of Pittsburgh's CTSI to understand how parent-adolescent dyadic cultural conflicts impact Latinx adolescents' exposure to ARA victimization and perpetration. She aims to use these results to inform development an ARA prevention program for Latinx adolescents and their parents. In addition to her research pursuits, Dr. Ragavan sees patients as a general pediatrician and enjoys teaching medical students and residents.

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## Marinilda Rivera Díaz, PhD, MSW, MSc

Dr. Marinilda Rivera Díaz is a Research Scientist at the Social Research Center and Professor of Social Work at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). Dr. Rivera Díaz has a PhD in Social Policy Administration from the UPR, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Illinois. In 2012, she completed an NIH postdoctoral fellowship in collaboration with the UPR School of Medicine and the School of Public Health of the University of Michigan, earning a Postdoctoral Master of Science in the Clinical and Translational Research joint degree from the School of Medicine and the School of Health Professions at the UPR, for which she received a Career Development Award (HCTRED) of the NIMHD. Dr. Rivera Díaz's work has been disseminated in numerous local and international forums, peer review

publications and two manuscripts. Her current research focuses on how health and immigration policies impact health inequality among Latino immigrants living with HIV and on the social determinants of childhood health inequality. Her work has been recognized by different local and international entities. In 2016, the College of Social Work Professionals of Puerto Rico awarded her with the Raquel Seda Prize, one of the highest recognitions granted by this institution.

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## Lisa Scarton, PhD, RN

Dr. Lisa Scarton is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Florida and an affiliate of the University of Florida Diabetes Institute. Dr. Scarton earned her PhD in nursing with a minor in gerontology at the University of Indiana and completed her post-doctoral training at the University of Florida. Dr. Scarton is dedicated to understanding and eliminating health disparities and improving health outcomes in underrepresented groups, particularly within the American Indian populations. Dr. Scarton recently completed a community-based participatory research project with an American Indian tribe in Southeastern Oklahoma, which led to the development and pilot testing of a multi-generational type 2 diabetes prevention and management intervention with the same tribe. Dr. Scarton's research also focuses on T2D and Cancer. Currently Dr. Scarton is developing a nurse-led intervention to promote early detection and timely management of T2D in patients with newly diagnosed cancer. Dr. Scarton's long-term goal is to become an independently funded

researcher with expertise in eliminating health disparities and improving health outcomes in minority populations.

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## Jillian Ryan Scheer, PhD

Dr. Jillian Scheer is a T32 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS in the Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Scheer earned a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Boston College and completed an APA-accredited internship at Mount Sinai St. Luke's. Dr. Scheer's master's degree is in Mental Health Counseling from Boston College and bachelor's degree is in Psychology and Sociology from Rutgers University. The overarching goal of Dr. Scheer's research is to use multimethod approaches to identify and intervene upon the co-occurring epidemics (i.e., syndemics) surrounding LGBTQ individuals, with a focus on intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault. Findings from Dr. Scheer's recent work have revealed that sexual assault exposure partially explains the sexual orientation disparity in co-occurring health-risk behaviors among female youth, potentially traumatic events exposure has an indirect effect on mental and physical health through shame among LGBTQ individuals, and gender identity is a risk and protective

factor for IPV and help-seeking. Dr. Scheer received the Laura Bassi Scholarship in 2019, the Distinguished Student Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association's Division 44 (Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity) and a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from Boston College in 2017.

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## Sivan Spitzer-Shohat, PhD

Dr. Sivan Spitzer-Shohat is an Organizational Sociologist and a Lecturer at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, and a Fellow at the Center for Health and the Social Sciences (CHeSS), University of Chicago. She received her PhD and an MA from the University of Haifa, Israel and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at CHeSS, University of Chicago. Dr. Spitzer-Shohat's research centers on evaluating and understanding complex interventions aimed at reducing health and health care inequities through the prism of organizational change. Using the principles and tools of implementation science, her ongoing research examines the organizational translation mechanisms required for moving equity from value to action in organization-wide interventions in both the U.S. and Israel. She evaluated the implementation of an organization-wide healthcare disparities

reduction program in Israel's largest health maintenance organization. Currently, she is assisting in the design, implementation and evaluation of UChicago Medicine's organization-wide initiative for becoming an equitable organization. Dr. Spitzer-Shohat was nominated in 2016 to the Humboldt Colloquium for upcoming junior researchers by the Israel National Academy of Sciences and received in 2018 Bar-Ilan University's Provost's Excellence Scholarship for Upcoming Women Junior Faculty.

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## Nicole R. Tuitt, DrPH

Dr. Nicole R. Tuitt is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Prevention Science Research Training Program at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. In this role, her research activities involve applying Bayesian statistical models to the elucidation of racial and social context specific correlates of alcohol use disorders. She also tests Bayesian space-time models for the assessment of American Indian (AI) drinking problems and practices. Prior to her postdoctoral fellowship, she was a Senior Professional Research Assistant at the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health at the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. In this position, she assisted with community-based participatory research (CBPR) studies to reduce substance use and sexual health disparities among AI young adolescents. Her research interests include the exploration of historical trauma, cultural factors, and social stressors as correlates of alcohol use disorders, other substance use, and sexual risk-taking among young adolescents of

color. She is also interested in Youth Participatory Action Research to address health inequities. Dr. Tuitt received her DrPH from the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Community and Behavioral Health with a minor in Epidemiology. Her dissertation on early onset substance use and precursors to sexual risk-taking among AI adolescents was funded by an F31 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and sponsored by Drs. Carol E. Kaufman and Nancy Rumbaugh-Whitesell.

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## Celina I. Valencia, DrPH

Dr. Celina I. Valencia is a T32 Postdoctoral Fellow in Cancer Prevention and Control in Cancer Disparities with a training focus in cancer epidemiology at the University of Arizona. She earned her Doctorate in Public Health with an emphasis in Public Health Policy from the University of Arizona.

Currently, she is working on a multilevel mixed-methods study that is examining gastric cancer risks among Latinos in rural and urban regions of Southern Arizona. The overarching goal of Dr. Valencia's research is to identify social drivers of health disparities to inform evidence based public policies.

She received a dissertation grant from the Health Initiatives of the Americas at the University of California at Berkeley and served as a Scholar in Residence at the Mexico Ministry of Health in Mexico City.

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### Tiara C. Willie, PhD, MA

Dr. Tiara C. Willie is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the HIV and Other Infectious Consequences of Substance Abuse (T32) program at the Miriam Hospital and Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She received her PhD in Chronic Disease Epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health and an MA in Women's Studies from Southern Connecticut State University. Dr. Willie is a social epidemiologist and her research focuses on socioecological influences on the etiology and health consequences of gender-based violence (e.g., intimate partner violence, reproductive coercion). Her most active research area examines gender-based violence and its impact on HIV risk, prevention, and treatment. During her doctoral training, Dr. Willie received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award to prospectively examine the effects of intimate partner violence on women's engagement in the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) care continuum (5F31MH113508). Findings from Dr. Willie's work have revealed that relational factors strongly influence women's engagement in PrEP care. Dr. Willie's research interests also

include reducing HIV racial disparities by conducting implementation science research on the intersection of violence and HIV prevention among African American women in the Deep South. In 2016, Dr. Willie received the Surgeon General C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Research Award.

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### Eva Woodward, PhD

Dr. Eva Woodward is a Clinical Health Psychologist. She is a clinician researcher actively engaged in scholarship on how implementation science can improve health and healthcare equity across multiple health conditions for vulnerable populations, such as racial minority, sexual and gender minority (LGBTQ), and low-income individuals. Her research applies frameworks and methods at the intersection of health equity and implementation science to implement health psychology interventions or interventions in primary care settings. She earned her B.S. in Psychology from Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK); PhD in Clinical Psychology from Suffolk University (Boston, MA); and completed residency at Brown University (Providence, RI) and postdoctoral fellowship in implementation science through VA South Central Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (Little Rock, AR). Dr. Woodward is a research investigator and clinical psychologist with the US Department of Veterans Affairs in Little

Rock, Arkansas. At the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, she is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and Affiliated Faculty in the Center for Implementation Research.

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