NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

2018 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute

Scholar Biographies

National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

NIH

Benjamin Becerra, DrPH, MBA, MPH, MS

Dr. Becerra is an Assistant Professor at School of Allied Health Professions, Loma Linda University. As a health disparities researcher, his emphasis has been on the interplay between clinical risk factors and social determinants of health among vulnerable populations, such as racial/ethnic minorities and U.S. veterans. Moreover, Dr. Becerra's research trajectory involves the interdisciplinary fields of precision medicine and social entrepreneurship. Current collaborations include statistical and bioinformatic approaches to assess mechanisms of a potential biologic for leukemia, as well as population-based studies with complementary and integrative medicine (CIH) use among minority populations to identify culturally relevant and accessible therapies. Additional academic and professional experiences consist of geographic information systems, molecular biology, statistical consulting, as well as experience as a Veterans Administration Diversity Fellow. Moreover, Dr. Becerra is on the board of the Latino Caucus for Public Health, a 501(c)3 organization in affiliation with the American Public Health Association, which advocates for the health and well-being of Latinos and minority populations.

Staja "Star" Booker, PhD, RN

Dr. Booker is a Nurse Researcher completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Florida, and adjunct faculty at the University of Iowa. With a PhD in Nursing (concentration in Aging/Gerontology) from the University of Iowa, Dr. Booker aims to improve the care of older adults through culturally responsive interventions for chronic pain in African Americans. Dr. Booker is driven by her passion to reduce health disparities by building a robust program of research to enhance chronic pain relief in underserved older adults. She has contributed over 25 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and research abstracts on pain management in ethnically diverse older adults. Significant contributions include developing a nursing model for pain assessment and measurement in older African Americans. In addition, she has given over 20 international, national, and regional plenary and poster presentations. Recent awards recognizing her academic scholarship include designation as a "Rising Star of Scholarship and Research" by Sigma Theta Tau International in 2015; Symptom Science Research Interest Group 2018 Dissertation Award through the Midwest Nursing Research Society; Outstanding Young Alumni from Grambling State University; 1st place winner of the Robert Levitt Award for Research in Aging; the Dean's Achievement Award (Diversity visionary); UI College of Nursing Leadership Award, and a former National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Patricia G. Archbold Scholar. Dr. Booker holds memberships in several professional organizations and is currently the Chair of the Nursing Shared Interest Group for the American Pain Society. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Jada L. Brooks, PhD, MSPH, RN

Dr. Brooks is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an academic nurse scientist, Brooks is dedicated to understanding and resolving health disparities in underrepresented groups, particularly among American Indians in the southeast. Dr. Brooks uses interdisciplinary research and community-engaged strategies to define and explore tribal community-identified health priorities and needs that can be remedied through culturally appropriate, sustainable and viable health solutions. Dr. Brooks is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) on a Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23 ES027026-02) to investigate the influence of positive psychosocial states as a potential buffer in the cardiovascular-associated inflammatory effects of environmental pollutants in early- to middle-aged American Indian women. Dr. Brooks also serves as co-investigator on a multisite study (R01 DA035143-05) funded by the National

Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to reduce substance use in American Indian youth from three American Indian tribal groups (Choctaw in Oklahoma, Lumbee in North Carolina, and Ojibwe/Chippewa in Minnesota) using a culturally tailored intertribal talking circle intervention.

Joy Buie, PhD, MSCR

Racial and ethnic disparities are interwoven into the fabric of the culture in the United States. As a scientist, Dr. Buie's greatest purpose is to understand physiological responses to negative environments that further perpetuate poorer health outcomes in the black community. Dr. Buie understands that a multi-pronged approach will be far more effective at moving the needle towards health equity and so she has been trained in a range of modalities including immunology, vascular biology, epigenetics, clinical research and intervention science focused on self-management. Her educational background includes a doctorate in immunology and an MS in clinical research from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She has a BS in biological sciences with a concentration in immunology from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. Currently, Dr. Buie is conducting a clinical trial focused on the role of microRNA in accelerated vascular disease and subsequent cognitive impairment in blacks in the U.S.

Elena Byhoff, MD, MSc

Dr. Byhoff is an Assistant Professor at Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine. She is a health services researcher with an interest in how primary care can be leveraged as a point of entry to address social determinants of health and reduce health disparities. She is dedicated to a policy relevant research agenda to improve and expand the provision of primary care to include all aspects of health. Dr. Byhoff completed her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her MD from the University of Pennsylvania and completed her internal medicine training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in the Primary Care Track. She received her Master's in Health Services Research while she completed the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Michigan.

Christina Hunter Chapman, MD, MS

Dr. Chapman was born and raised in Mercerville, NJ. She obtained her BA in Biomedical Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University and her MD from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. She completed her Radiation Oncology residency at the University of Michigan, and during her research year, obtained additional skills in statistical analysis, health policy, leadership, and health inequity by completing an MS in Health and Healthcare Research. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan, with a joint appointment as an affiliate investigator in the Veterans Affairs (VA) Ann Arbor Healthcare System's Center for Clinical Management Research. Her research focuses on enhancing the application of medical technologies for radiotherapy delivery, but also on ensuring that these advancements are available to minority and underserved populations. Dr. Chapman's clinical practice is at the VA, where she focuses primarily on lung and head and neck cancer. Her health equity research spans the continuum of cancer care and utilizes advanced statistical approaches. She was awarded a two-year NIH Supplement to Promote Diversity to work with the Breast Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) to use simulation modeling to examine whether black women might benefit from a different screening mammography schedule than is recommended for the overall population given racial disparities in disease

epidemiology. She also investigates strategies to enhance the diversity of the physician workforce, given that maximal scientific process cannot be made without the inclusion of all segments of the population.

Thomas Anthony Chávez, PhD, LMHC

Dr. Chávez is an assistant professor in counselor education at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He has over 15 years of providing counseling and psychological services in a variety of settings and with diverse populations in New Mexico, New York and Wisconsin. These settings include a community-based organization serving youth with disabilities, high risk/high need schools, child and adolescent outpatient and inpatient therapy programs, juvenile justice systems, colleges, a community health clinic, and NIH funded research. Dr. Chávez has partaken in interpersonal psychotherapy research with depressed Latino adolescents, intervention development and research on family stress and parental depression among Latino families, substance use/addictions intervention research, and community-engaged scholarship on mental health concerns among undocumented youth and their families. He has served on diversity committees and the Collaborative on Hispano/Latino Health Equity (CHLHE) board. Dr. Chávez is also a member of the UNM Traditional Healing course organizing committee and has provided community service and education throughout New Mexico via the RAICES (Remembering Ancestors, Inspiring Community, and Empowering Self) projects, addressing health and wellbeing from a traditional healing perspective. Dr. Chávez has collaborated with the UNM Global Education Office on the development of the Community Leadership and Identity Institute for Mexican Indigenous youth, which promotes leadership skill development in sectors of health, education, and government/policy as well as supporting the maintenance of cultural identity, critical for personal and community wellbeing. Finally, such work has allowed Dr. Chávez to publish in peer-reviewed journals and books.

Natasha Crooks, PhD, RN

Dr. Crooks' research interest in reducing sexual health disparities among women of color began as an undergraduate nursing student in a clinical rotation in women's health. As a graduate student, Dr. Crooks worked as a project assistant on an RO1-NIH-funded intervention study (African American Depression Intervention [AADI]), PI Earlise Ward, which was culturally adapted and based on an Afrocentric paradigm to reduce mental health disparities. These experiences fueled her desire to address sexual health disparities in Black women. Her dissertation research entitled "The Process of Becoming a Sexual Black Woman" was funded by an F31 from the National Institute of Nursing Research and sponsored by Drs. Barbara King and Barbara Bowers. Dr. Crooks utilized grounded theory to develop a conceptual model describing the sociocultural processes and conditions that influence Black female sexual development and STI/HIV risk. Dr. Crooks's current work, as a NIH-funded postdoctoral fellow at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, mentored by Drs. Jessica Sales and Ralph DiClemente, extends her dissertation research through validating the conceptual model in Black adolescent females to further target and tailor intervention programs to reduce STI/HIV risk among this population. Dr. Crooks' future research goals include developing and conducting a multi-level STI/HIV prevention intervention to improve Black females' sexual and reproductive health. The culmination of her clinical training in women's health, academic background in Gender and Women's studies, along with her mixed-methods research experience has prepared Dr. Crooks to pursue a program of research addressing sexual health disparities in women of color.

Rhonda Dailey, MD

Dr. Dailey was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan, in the fall of 2016. Dr. Dailey graduated with honors and received her Bachelor of Science at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. She received her Doctorate in Medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City. She earned a certificate in Practice Facilitation from the University of Buffalo SUNY and recently earned a certificate in Practice Based Research Methods. Dr. Dailey has extensive experience as a past Project Manager for a variety of faculty-led research projects in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences at Wayne State that focus on racial disparities, including the influence of implicit bias and discrimination on doctor-patient communication in an ambulatory clinic. Her research interests include racial disparities and social determinants related to chronic diseases, patient attitudes and beliefs about health, and measuring health care quality. Dr. Dailey is currently an investigator on two research projects involving all-African American cohorts. The first project is supported by an NHLBI Diversity Investigator Supplement to develop work within an R01 study focused on asthma medication adherence in young adults. The second project involves collaboration on an R01 study of how psychosocial factors are mediated through biological pathways to result in preterm birth; this collaboration developed from her contributions as the project manager of a previous R01 on racism and preterm birth.

Ashley Darcy-Mahoney, PhD, NNP, FAAN

Dr. Darcy-Mahoney is a neonatal nurse practitioner and researcher who has worked throughout her career to advance nursing research, education and practice, with a focus on neonatology, infant health and developmental pediatrics. Her research has led to the creation of programs that improve health and developmental outcomes for at-risk and preterm infants. As the director of infant research at George Washington University's Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Institute, Dr. Darcy-Mahoney advances the body of research in infant health and developmental outcomes in high-risk infants with a focus on understanding the early brain and development trajectories in this population. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgetown University and her Masters and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nurses, a current Josiah Macy Jr. Faculty scholar, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar Alumna, and has recently been named a Modern Healthcare Rising Star in Nursing.

Kenyani S. Davis, MD, MPH

Dr. Davis was born in Arizona and introduced to science by her father Vixton Allen at the age of five. She was steadfast on becoming a physician; she attended William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on a track scholarship, where she majored in Pre-Professional Biology. She matriculated into medical school at Ross University School of Medicine in 2008. In 2016, she completed her residency in Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine while simultaneously obtaining a Master's Degree in Public Health. After graduation, she accepted a Clinical Assistant professorship at the university where she practices general internal medicine and teaches medical students and residents. She is the Assistant Medical Director for Millennium Collaborative Care, which is a population health organization responsible for redesigning healthcare delivery to the Medicaid population. She gained her strong work ethic and perseverance from her mother, Carolyn O'Connor, and it has served as the foundation for her career. She is a part of the African American Healthcare Disparities Task Force that was assembled by community professionals and the pastoral

community to begin to address the disturbing health inequities that plague five zip codes within Erie County. She is a budding healthcare disparities researcher in which her work spans from the underutilization of hospice services in the African American community to colorectal cancer screening in black men. She is married to her lovely husband, John Davis, and they have three wonderful children, Izaiah (15), Laylani (5) and Sanaa (2).

Kia L. Davis, ScD, MPH

Dr. Davis is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. As an applied social epidemiologist, she is particularly interested in identifying structural factors that pattern stress and chronic disease risk in African-American communities. Specifically, her research program focuses on the relationships between socioeconomic status, chronic socioenvironmental stress, and chronic disease risk factors with a focus on: 1) understanding stress as a potential mediating pathway in the relationship between socioeconomic status and chronic disease risk factors; 2) improving measurement of socioeconomic status and socioenvironmental stressors in diverse populations and using methods that allow for a more comprehensive measurement of stressors that one may encounter; and 3) developing scalable interventions to reduce the burden of chronic disease risk in communities of color. Dr. Davis's ultimate goal is to provide data that informs organizational and policy change strategies to reduce health disparities. Prior to joining Washington University School of Medicine, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Cancer Health Disparities Training Program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Davis is a Memphis native who received her MPH from St. Louis University College of Public Health and Social Justice and her doctorate from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Armando De Alba Rosales, MD, MPH

Dr. De Alba is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), College of Public Health. He earned his medical degree from the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Edo. de Puebla (Mexico) and is currently an active physician in the state of Veracruz. In 2013, Dr. De Alba received his Master's degree in Public Health at UNMC and is currently a PhD candidate for Clinical Translational Research. From 2013 to 2014, he was the health disparities research fellow for the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Office of Minority Health. As part of his professional training, Dr. De Alba has provided services in urban and rural settings in Mexico and the United States. From 2010 to 2013, he worked at the Mexican Consulate as the head coordinator of the health care programs for the Mexican communities of Nebraska and Iowa. In 2014, as UNMC emerged as part of the world leading responders to the Ebola virus, Dr. De Alba collaborated on developing the Ebola education course for clinicians and took the lead for putting together the Spanish version for use by clinicians and community members. During spring and summer breaks, Dr. De Alba provides medical services and education in Mexico, Central, and South America. In 2015, Dr. De Alba was the recipient of the UNMC Public Health "Impact" Prize. His research interests include policies and interventions that address health care disparities and access to primary care, chronic disease prevention, and clinical translational research.

Molly Dondero, PhD

Dr. Dondero is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and an affiliate of the Center on Health, Risk, and Society at American University in Washington, DC. Her research interests include health disparities and social determinants of health, with a particular focus on how immigration, race/ethnicity, social class, and place contribute to population-level inequality in health and well-being in the United States and Latin America. She holds a PhD in Sociology, with a specialization in Demography, from the University of Texas at Austin and trained for two years as a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development postdoctoral fellow at the Population Research Institute at the Pennsylvania State University before joining the faculty at American University.

Kristen Dorans, ScD

Dr. Dorans received her Doctor of Science in epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. After her graduate training, she completed a science policy fellowship with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and postdoctoral work in the Department of Epidemiology at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, LA. She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Tulane. Her research interests include the epidemiology of diabetes and cardiovascular disease and cardiometabolic health disparities.

Sarah N. Forrester, PhD, MS

Dr. Forrester is a postdoctoral associate at University of Massachusetts School of Medicine, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, where she studies the role of biological age in explaining health disparities. She earned her PhD in psychiatric epidemiology, with an emphasis in cognitive disorders of aging from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Forrester's Bachelor's and Master's degrees are in psychology. Her research interests include racial disparities in aging, racially disparate health outcomes as a function of psychosocial stressors that are unique to minority aging populations, and integrating biological and psychosocial factors to create interventions to improve outcomes in aging minorities. In particular, Dr. Forrester is interested in utilizing the biological age framework and integrating psychosocial factors to create a sociobiological risk score that can be used to predict future morbidity, mortality, and cognitive decline.

Jami Fukui, MD

Dr. Fukui is Assistant Professor, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Academic Clinician, University of Hawaii Cancer Center (UHCC). Her research interests focus on breast cancer health disparities. Understanding the factors that contribute to these disparities can provide targetable solutions to improve outcomes for understudied and vulnerable populations. Dr. Fukui's goal is to improve the standard of care for breast cancer patients through evidence based translational research and clinical trials and provide these options to her patients. Dr. Fukui has written several multi-centered investigator-initiated trials in breast cancer before joining UHCC faculty in August 2017, where she spends 50% of her time participating in breast cancer research and 50% of the time seeing breast cancer patients. Her academic position affords protected time to develop investigator-initiated trials, increase enrollment and coordinate breast cancer clinical trials of all types (NCORP, industry and IIT), across all Hawaii Cancer Consortium (HCC) sites. At Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (part of Hawaii Pacific Health-HPH-system), Dr. Fukui is the Cancer Liaison Physician for Commission on Cancer and provides quarterly quality metric analysis and focus on coordinating quality improvement projects for breast cancer care. She has completed two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. She received her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, graduating with the Gold Humanism Award. Dr. Fukui completed her residency and fellowship, and was appointed chief fellow in Hematology and Medical Oncology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Maria Esteli Garcia, MD, MPH, MAS

Dr. Garcia is an Assistant Professor at the University of California in San Francisco in the Division of General Internal Medicine. She was born in Mexico and moved to Oakland, California, when she was young. She attended college at UC Berkeley (studying abroad in Brazil for a year) and then moved across country to complete medical school at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She took two years off during medical school to complete an MPH at Harvard School of Public Health and then to conduct research on quality improvement efforts in HIV clinics in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, as part of the Fogarty International Clinical Scholars Program. After medical school, she completed Internal Medicine residency (SFPC) at UCSF. Dr. Garcia stayed on for the Primary Care Research Fellowship at UCSF to pursue a career as a clinician-investigator. Her research and clinical interests lie in improving mental health services in primary care, especially for older patients with limited English proficiency.

Neal D. Goldstein, PhD, MBI

Dr. Goldstein is an assistant research professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health (Philadelphia, PA) and an epidemiologist at Christiana Care Health System (Newark, DE). Dr. Goldstein specializes in conducting research on the health effects of infectious diseases in vulnerable populations including children and people who identify as LGBTQ. He has extensive experience as an applied methodologist, particularly in epidemiological analyses from observational studies and secondary data sources. His research spans several disciplines including vaccine-preventable diseases, sexual minority health and HIV, pediatric infectious diseases, and women's health surrounding pregnancy. He also possesses a background in biomedical informatics with a detailed knowledge of hardware and software in the healthcare domain. Most recently, he has focused on translational epidemiology, or moving from knowledge generation to application and advocacy. Dr. Goldstein is well published, including a sole authored book on conducting epidemiological analyses from electronic health records (publisher Taylor and Francis,

2017), several co-authored chapters in academic textbooks, and over 30 peer-reviewed publications in leading epidemiological and clinical journals. He writes a science blog, which is available at www.goldsteinepi.com/blog.

David Andrés González, PhD, ABPP

Dr. González is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He conducts neurocognitive and Wada tests for different neurological disorders and participates with three multidisciplinary teams: an epilepsy surgery planning team, a deep brain stimulation (DBS) for movement disorders team, and a neurodegenerative diagnosis and care team. He serves on committees of the National Academy of Neuropsychology, American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, and Bexar County Psychological Association. His service has focused on addressing diversity in the profession, state legislative advocacy for the profession and public, professional development (e.g. continuing education presentations), and community volunteering events. He also volunteers his time for the local area health education center (AHEC) and gives several presentations annually in the South Texas region. His research has focused on evaluating and improving diagnostic utility of cognitive and mood disorder assessment, which includes cultural adaptation of measures. He is an ad-hoc reviewer for multiple journals, including *Assessment and Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*.
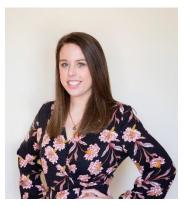
Kayoll Galbraith Gyan, PhD, RN

Dr. Gyan is a postdoctoral fellow in the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health-Dana Farber Cancer Institute Education Program in Cancer Prevention. Dr. Gyan earned a PhD in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a BSN in Nursing and BA in Africana Studies from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Her research perspective draws from a socio-cultural framework that posits that there are social, cultural, and community level factors that contribute to the HPV associated cancer disparities among African Americans and people of color. Her work uses qualitative and quantitative methods to examine how factors such as social support networks, religion/spirituality, and health communication influence the adoption of cancer prevention behaviors (i.e. HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening), and preventative sexual health behaviors among African American adolescents and adults. Dr. Gyan's research also uses community-based approaches for engaging and strengthening community organizations and faith-based organizations to deliver culturally and contextually appropriate interventions and evidence-based programs on HPV-associated cancer prevention within resource-limited communities.

Lauren M. Haack, PhD

Dr. Haack is an assistant professor and attending clinical psychologist in the UCSF Department of Psychiatry. Her research and clinical interests focus on 1) cultural influences to mental health conceptualization, assessment, and treatment, and 2) accessible and culturally appropriate evidence-based services for vulnerable youth and families worldwide. After her doctoral training in at Marquette University and predoctoral internship at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) specializing in evidence-based psychosocial services for youth with Attention-Deficit, Hyperactivity/Impulsivity (ADHD), Dr. Haack received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows with a project entitled "Culturally Sensitive School-Home Behavioral Program for Latino Children with ADHD" funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). This mixed-method investigation of the Collaborative Life Skills (CLS) program inspired her subsequent National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty Global Health fellowship pilot-testing an adapted version of CLS (CLS-FUERTE) in Culiacan, Mexico. This project represented the first known effort to implement and evaluate a behavioral school-based program to improve youth attention and behavior in Latin America. She currently is involved in research investigating a web-based CLS training program, as well as continued implementation/evaluation of CLS services for Spanish speaking families in the United States and Mexico.

Misty Hawkins, PhD

Dr. Hawkins is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the REACH laboratory (Research on Emotions and Cognition in Health) at Oklahoma State University (OSU) (www.reachlab.org). She and her team study the relationships between neurocognitive and emotional factors on chronic cardiometabolic diseases, such as obesity and cardiovascular disease. She is a current recipient of a K23 Career Development Award from the National Institute on Diabetes Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK) which examines how two different behavioral weight loss treatments might impact or have their effects moderated by neurocognitive function. She expanded this trial to include a targeted sample of American Indians/Native Americans by securing funds from an IDEA grant pilot mechanism (i.e., Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Sciences Resources program). She currently serves as a member of the OSU IRB as a tribal research expert reviewer. She has published in leading behavioral medicine journals, including *Obesity*, *Psychosomatic Medicine*, and *Circulation: Heart Failure*.

Nia Heard-Garris, MD, MSc, FAAP

Dr. Nia Heard-Garris is a pediatric physician-scientist in the Department of Pediatrics at Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University; and also in the Division of Academic General Pediatrics and Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Research, Outreach, and Advocacy Center at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Dr. Heard-Garris completed a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Fellowship at the University of Michigan, earning her Master of Science in Health and Healthcare Research. During fellowship, she served as a fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She trained at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, for her pediatric residency. She received her Doctor of Medicine (MD) from Howard University College of Medicine and Bachelor of Science in biology at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Heard-Garris's overarching research interests revolve around the relationship between adversities experienced early in childhood and child health. She also focuses on the factors that contribute to a child's ability to thrive despite these experiences. Through her research, she aims to generate the knowledge to help inform evidence-based interventions to allow

pediatricians and policymakers to help build resilience in children and in the communities that support children. Her long-term goal is to understand the role of childhood stress in the development of pediatric illnesses and key mitigating factors, so that family-centered, culturally appropriate strategies can be developed to treat, prevent, and ultimately lessen the burden adversity has on health throughout the life course.

Jibril B. Hirbo, PhD

Dr. Hirbo is a Research Instructor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville TN. He grew up in a small, remote town in the northern part of Kenya in East Africa, where ethnic identity is very strong. He did not realize it at the time, because he did not have access to resources like libraries, career counselors, or role models in science, but his interest in human genetic history and disease disparities was ignited when he observed differences in the incidence of cancer in ethnic communities in his hometown. Since then, his graduate training and research experience have given him a broad background for the study of the genetic history of human populations in recent African ancestry. Dr. Hirbo's primary research interest is in understanding genetics that underlie health disparities. He has an overarching hypothesis developed from his previous research experience in population genetics and in the genetics of common diseases with complex inheritance: that the genetic adaptation to high pathogen environments is a major contributing factor to the genetic component to health disparities between those of recent European and African ancestry. While non-genetic factors are likely to drive many of the health disparities characterized to date, Dr. Hirbo's hypothesis is that the genome variation that does contribute to health disparities will come primarily from genetic variation that is adapted to local environments, and therefore differs in frequency among populations with different historical geographic ancestry. Dr. Hirbo studies genetics of eye diseases like glaucoma to test this hypothesis.

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH

Dr. Ing is an assistant professor at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health in the John A Burns School of Medicine. Her long held academic and research interests are in health disparities informed by a social determinants framework. She received a BA in Anthropology from Pomona College, a MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a DrPH in Community-based and Translational Research from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Dr. Ing has coordinated several community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health. Notable among these was a 12-year, NIMHD-funded, CBPR initiative to address obesity and related disparities in Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Peoples that included adapting, testing, and disseminating two culturally congruent, evidence-based health promotion programs. As a PI, Dr. Ing has secured funding to test the effectiveness of a semi-structured social support group in maintaining or improving diabetes management, adapt an evidence-based healthy lifestyle intervention for web-based delivery, and examine psychosocial determinants of hypertension. Most recently, Dr. Ing was awarded a career development supplement from NHLBI to examine the impact of neighborhoods on systolic blood pressure and cardiovascular disease risk in Native Hawaiians. This supplement also aims to better understand how Native Hawaiians perceive their neighborhoods in relation to their ability to make healthy lifestyle changes. Dr. Ing's long-term career goal is to become an independently funded investigator with expertise in addressing health disparities in Native Hawaiians using a using a CBPR approach and a multilevel determinants of health framework.

Clara E. Isaza, PhD

When Dr. Isaza moved to Puerto Rico (PR) her perception was that there were several conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, and neurodegenerative disorders, that seem to be more common in the Island than in the places that she had lived before: Colombia, continental U.S. (OH), and Mexico. Looking into the scientific literature, it was clear that the perception was well founded for those conditions for which there are official statistics. When Dr. Isaza's personal and migratory status regularized she started a tenure track position at the Public Health Program from Ponce Health Sciences University. This position allows her to apply her training in basic sciences, starting the research questions at cellular level and moving them to human populations. As she is interested in finding possible reasons why some conditions are more common in PR, Dr. Isaza started to develop a research line in neurodegeneration—Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Diseases (PD and AD)—and the possible links that the development of these conditions might have with common infections in the Island. For this work Dr. Isaza's team has been using publicly available microarray data for PD, AD, and Dengue. They modelled the analysis as a mathematical optimization problem to select those genes that changed their expression the most and to correlate the expression changes. Using their results and the available scientific reports, they have selected a group of gene expression changes to be validated using in-vitro models to prepare for future studies using PR patients' blood samples.

Elise Trott Jaramillo, PhD

Dr. Jaramillo is a cultural and applied anthropologist studying environmental and public health disparities for racially and socioeconomically marginalized populations. Her dissertation research examined grassroots political organizing and the effects of natural resource policy on users of New Mexico's "acequias" (community irrigation ditches). This research centered on human relationships with the environment and revealed disparities for Latinx and Native American citizens in access to food security, water safety, and governmental decision-making surrounding natural resources. As an Associate Research Scientist at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation—a nonprofit research organization focusing on public health, welfare, and safety—Dr. Jaramillo has undertaken applied anthropological research on access to health care and insurance for Native American seniors, and implementation science studies on the uptake, scalability, and sustainment of an evidence-based child welfare intervention. Throughout her career, her work has emphasized participatory and community-driven strategies, critical pedagogy and knowledge-sharing, and the translation of research to policy. She has a sustained interest in fostering social support and community connectedness to improve health and wellbeing. She is currently developing a mixed-methods study to engage rural minority seniors and primary care providers in a cross-sector partnership to map community-level protective factors and barriers to mental wellness and the diagnosis/treatment of depression.

Ebonee Johnson, PhD, MS

Dr. Johnson is an assistant professor in the department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education at The University of Iowa. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC) and has over 10 years of experience in rehabilitation education and research. Dr. Johnson earned a doctorate in rehabilitation psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2012. She received her MS in rehabilitation counseling from Southern University in 2008 and a BS in psychology from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2005. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Iowa, she worked for four years as an assistant professor in the department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at Southern University, a historically black college/university. Dr. Johnson serves on several editorial boards including *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin* (American Rehabilitation Counseling Association), *Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counseling*, and the *Journal of Psychology in Africa*. Her broad research interests include cultural targeting and tailoring of self-management and behavioral health interventions for persons living with chronic illness and disability, with an applied focus on African Americans living with HIV.

Abiola O. Keller, PA-C, MPH, PhD

Dr. Keller is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at Marquette University. She completed her Masters and PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a postdoctoral fellowship in health disparities research in the University of Wisconsin Center for Women's Health and Health Disparities Research. The primary goal of her program of research is to promote healthy behaviors at the individual, family, and health system levels aimed at managing depression and other chronic illnesses among vulnerable populations. Dr. Keller has received research funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Program to examine the relationship between the level of physician, physician assistant and nurse practitioner involvement in primary care visits and the treatment of depression. Dr. Keller's current work investigates how involving family members in the care of African American older adults with multiple chronic conditions impacts health behaviors and health outcomes.

Richard T. LeBeau, PhD

Dr. LeBeau is currently employed at UCLA, where he is a postdoctoral fellow in the Anxiety and Depression Research Center and the Associate Director of Clinical Services for the Innovative Treatment Network at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. In 2014, he received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from UCLA, where he was mentored by Dr. Michelle Craske. His primary research activities during his graduate training involved his role as a scientific advisor to the DSM-5 Anxiety Disorders Workgroup and his dissertation, which was comprised of a series of studies examining the role of social rejection experiences in the etiology and maintenance of social anxiety disorder. Upon graduation, he completed an APA-accredited post-doctoral fellowship in Interprofessional Integrative Health at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System. He currently oversees a multisite RCT examining the impact of work-related cognitive behavioral therapy (WCBT) delivered by paraprofessionals in vocational service settings on employment and mental health outcomes in unemployed individuals with social anxiety. He is a licensed clinical psychologist and provides supervision in multiple settings. He has a longstanding interest in minority health and is particularly interested in understanding the role of social stress in the onset and maintenance of anxiety and mood disorders in sexual and gender minorities, as well as the dissemination of cutting-edge psychological interventions into underserved communities more broadly. Dr. LeBeau has co-authored over 30 articles and four book chapters and has presented his research at numerous scientific conferences.

Keila N. Lopez, MD, MPH

Dr. Lopez received her medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago and completed pediatric residency training and a chief year at the University of Chicago. Next, she completed a Master of Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health with an emphasis on minority health policy. She subsequently completed her pediatric cardiology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, with a fourth year of training focusing on cardiovascular imaging. Dr. Lopez is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine Division of pediatric cardiology, as well as the Director of the pediatric cardiology transition program, which focuses on improving patient care between pediatric and adult systems. She received a NIH NHLBI K23 early career award for technology-based interventions to reduce health disparities. She is the national committee lead for the American College of Cardiology quality work group on adolescent transition and transfer metrics (approved in late 2017) and is a co-investigator for the Texas Children's Hospital Policy and Advocacy Center. Dr. Lopez's research portfolio reflects a longstanding commitment to addressing health disparities, particularly as it pertains to the field of pediatric cardiology, and has several publications resulting from her research. Overall, Dr. Lopez seeks to incorporate cardiology, public health, and minority health policy in order to develop research initiatives and interventions that directly inform health policy and improve the health care of underserved and minority populations, and to improve the care of CHD patients, particularly during the transition period from pediatric to adult care.

Zeynep Madak-Erdogan, PhD

Dr. Madak-Erdogan is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition and the Director of Women's Health, Hormones and Nutrition lab at University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. She received her BS degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics from Bilkent University in 2002. After completing her PhD and Postdoctoral studies on Mechanisms of Estrogen Receptor Action, she joined Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at UIUC, in 2014. Her lab uses "Systems Biology" approaches to understand how nutrients and hormones impact Women's health, in normal as well as diseased physiological states like breast cancer, metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease in health disparity populations. She has published articles in top-tier journals including *Molecular Systems Biology*, *Journal of American Chemical Society*, *Molecular and Cellular Biology* and *Molecular Endocrinology*. She has mentored several undergraduate and graduate students. She has taught courses in the areas of Diet, Nutrition and Cancer, Toxicology and Role of Diet and Nutrition in Women's Health. She has served leadership positions in UIUC as the co-director of Cancer Research Advocacy Group. She is currently a National Center for Supercomputing Applications Fellow. She has received several awards including NIEHS, Pre- and Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Endocrine Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Fellowship, Women in Endocrinology Young Investigator Award from Endocrine Society and Mary Swartz Rose Young investigator Award from American Society of Nutrition.

Yolanda J. McDonald, PhD

Dr. McDonald earned her PhD in Geography from Texas A&M University and a MA in Sociology from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellow. Dr. McDonald is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human and Organization Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University and affiliated faculty, Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment. Dr. McDonald's research utilizes geospatial approaches to investigate human health outcomes and healthcare expenditures. She examines where and why health disparities exist using geographic information science (GIS) theory and methods informed by environmental and social justice frameworks, social epidemiology, and the theory of intersectionality and multi-dimensional theory of accessibility. Her current U.S.-based research agenda applies an interdisciplinary focus on the intersections of medical geography, GIS, health policy, and epidemiology (1) to inform strategies to control and prevent cervical cancer (2) to develop a national-level geospatial database to assess public drinking water quality, water treatment, and infrastructure, and (3) to measure health outcomes, quality of life, and costs of home and in-center hemodialysis. Dr. McDonald has been a co-investigator, research assistant, and fellow for several National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and Environmental Protection Agency grants. She is a research partner with the Tennessee Public Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Safe Water for Community Health program. Dr. McDonald has published articles in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters in the areas of healthcare accessibility, water justice, and climate change and human health.

Cheryl A. S. McFarland, PhD

Dr. McFarland is the Director of Data and Evaluation for the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium (CJFHC). Dr. McFarland oversees the collection and analysis of birth certificate data for six counties in the Central Region of New Jersey, provides oversight and training of 14 birthing facilities charged with collecting the information for the birth certificate, and providing quarterly and annual reporting to hospitals on the aggregate data. In addition, Dr. McFarland is lead evaluator for a number of evaluation projects. She also serves on the Collective Impact Committee and their Steering Committee for Leon County, a collaborative partnership of non-profit organizations and state and local agencies to address reducing disparities in access to prenatal care. Dr. McFarland's current and future research focuses on two broad yet related themes: 1) Understanding how the social environment influences disparities in health, specifically maternal/child health and 2) Creating and evaluating innovative strategies to reduce such disparities. She has published on racial disparities and health in *Journal of Gerontology, Social Sciences, Population Research and Policy Review*, and two chapters in edited volumes. Dr. McFarland also has two articles currently being revised for resubmission to *Journal of Health and Social Behavior and Social Science and Medicine, Population Health*. Her current line of inquiry builds on prior research investigating stressor exposure and health outcomes, specifically understanding how exposure to unfair treatment by police, a particularly virulent stressor experienced more by African Americans than whites, explain racial disparities in health.

Devika Nair, MD

Dr. Nair is currently a nephrology fellow at Vanderbilt University. She received her undergraduate education at the University of California, Berkeley, followed by medical school and Internal Medicine residency training at Tulane University. She completed a Chief Residency in Internal Medicine before moving to Nashville to pursue her nephrology fellowship. Dr. Nair currently serves as Chief Nephrology Fellow and is pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation. She is deeply interested in using qualitative and quantitative methods to study the psychological determinants of patient-reported outcomes such as self-care, quality of life, and depression among minority patients with kidney disease as well as finding ways to facilitate better physician-patient communication about these issues. Dr. Nair's long-term goal is to become an academic physician scientist who develops culturally sensitive psychoeducational interventions to improve these outcomes in her patients. She is eager to participate in the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Summer Research Institute to deepen her understanding of how to better engage vulnerable populations in patient-centered clinical research, as she feels that those who belong to these populations continue to have an underrepresented voice in kidney disease research.

Quyen Ngo, PhD, LP

Dr. Quyen Ngo is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine's Injury Center at the University of Michigan. She is a fully licensed Clinical Psychologist with expertise in substance use, violence and trauma, contemplative practice, and technology-assisted psychological interventions. Dr. Ngo's current research includes a career development award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Through this award, Dr. Ngo is developing technology-enhanced interventions to reduce co-occurring alcohol use and violence perpetration among youth. Dr. Ngo is also examining 1) youth sexual violence through an R03 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and 2) social media and sexual violence through pilot funds from the University of Michigan Injury Center. Her work is focused on strength-based approaches for at-risk youth and leveraging technology for increased intervention efficiency, efficacy, and availability. Dr. Ngo is committed to supporting at-risk youth in thriving in the face of adversity.

Uyen-Sa Nguyen, DSc, MPH

Dr. Nguyen received her degree in epidemiology from Boston University School of Public Health. Her current research is partly supported by a K01 award from NIAMS. The K01 research aims were to understand, quantify, and rectify paradoxical findings of well-known putative risk factors that have been found to protect against disease or mortality in the context of rheumatic diseases, including the obesity or smoking paradoxes. It was through her K01-supported collaborations in musculoskeletal health that she came to understand the necessity to conduct disparity research in health and healthcare utilization among minority populations and in those with lower socio-economic status. Findings from research conducted in a European country that has universal healthcare indicate that those who were less educated waited much longer to have total joint replacements and were in worse physical health at time of surgery compared with counterparts with higher education. This pattern in differential utilization was very similar for black compared with white participants in the U.S. Very little research has been done in Asian Americans, however, particularly in Vietnamese-Americans (VietAmericans). As a musculoskeletal epidemiologist of Vietnamese descent, Dr. Nguyen is committed to ascertaining the prevalence and consequences of chronic diseases, including awareness of risk factors of arthritis and barriers to appropriate management and care in Asian Americans, especially VietAmericans. The

knowledge gained will help provide more targeted preventive care or interventions in a marginalized and underrepresented population.

Karen J. Ortiz-Ortiz, DrPH, MPH, MA

Dr. Ortiz-Ortiz is a Researcher at the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC). She is an adjunct professor at the Department of Health Services Administration, School of Public Health at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. Dr. Ortiz-Ortiz holds an MA in Economics, an MPH in Biostatistics and a DrPH with a concentration in Health Systems Analysis and Management from the University of Puerto Rico. She is leading the efforts to develop the Research Program on Cancer Care Delivery at the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Program. Her research interests include cancer-related health disparities, health services research and health system analysis. Dr. Ortiz-Ortiz's current research is aimed at understanding how the interplay of different components of the health system, as well as the individual and socioeconomic factors, influences cancer patient's outcomes. Her ultimate objective is to translate research findings into the development of new evidence-based interventions to reduced health disparities through the entire continuum of cancer care.

Dana Prince, PhD, MPH

Prior to joining the faculty at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Prince completed her NIDA-funded T32 postdoctoral fellowship at the Yale School of Medicine in 2016. During her doctoral training at the University of Washington School of Social Work, Prince's research training was supported by two NIH-predoctoral fellowships (NIMH T32 and NCRR TL1). She is a current recipient of the NIMHD Loan Repayment Program. Dr. Prince has developed a robust program of health disparities research that focuses on the transition to adulthood for vulnerable and marginalized youth, most notably substance use, incarceration, and homelessness, among adolescents and young adults transitioning from foster care. Early adversity (including maltreatment) may lead to an increased propensity for, and heightened sensitivity to, stressful experiences throughout the life-course, leading to poorer mental health outcomes. System-involved youth experience heightened exposure to adverse events, including trauma and abuse. Subgroups of youth in foster care, notably sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth face additional risks. Nationally, SGM youth are at a significantly increased risk of psychological disorders including, major depressive disorder and suicidality. Foster youth who are SGM face compounded adversities that place them at even higher risk for psychological symptoms, warranting additional research and targeted intervention. Dr. Prince is engaged in multiple federally funded community- and system-based research projects to impact services, health and well-being outcomes for SGM youth in foster care in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Eliut Rivera-Segarra, PhD

Dr. Rivera-Segarra is an Assistant Professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Science at the Ponce Health Sciences University, Puerto Rico. He has received support from National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) through the Research Center for Minority Institutions (RCMI) and the American Psychological Association to conduct research on stigma, stress and health disparities. Broadly, his research interests focus on reducing health disparities among Latinos/as living with serious mental illness. His research aims to understand and address the role of psychosocial and cultural factors (i.e. stigma, stress, social support) in the process of health and disease among Latinos/as with serious mental illness. Currently, he is focused on understanding how these psychosocial and cultural processes "get under the skin" by looking at how they are linked to chronic disease biomarkers (i.e. cortisol, cytokines, DNA methylation) and health related behaviors (e.g. physical activity) among Latinos/as with serious mental illness.

Benissa E. Salem, PhD, RN, MSN, PHN, CNL

Dr. Salem is an Assistant Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Nursing. As a nurse researcher, she has utilized principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods in her research. She developed and published a theoretical framework which guided an understanding of correlates of frailty among Los Angeles-based middle-aged and older homeless adults. She has utilized qualitative methods to understand the experience of prefrail and frail, middle-aged and older homeless women, and perspectives of homeless service providers working with homeless women, to design culturally-sensitive interventions among this under-resourced population. She has also pilot tested a two-arm, randomized controlled trial (RCT) which compared the effectiveness of a Frailty Intervention versus a Health Promotion program among prefrail and frail, middle-aged and older homeless women. Most recently, she formed a community advisory board, inclusive of community and academic stakeholders, refined and obtained preliminary feasibility and acceptability of a trauma-informed, health promotion program, "HEALthy Beginnings" for prefrail or frail, middle-aged and older homeless women. She has also served as a Co-Investigator on a CBPR-informed, RCT delivered by a nurse/community health worker team to reduce drug use and recidivism among formerly incarcerated, homeless women exiting California jails and prisons. She has previously completed a National Institute of Nursing Research T32 health disparities pre-and-post doctoral fellowship, received a UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship Award and a UCLA School of Nursing Emerging Leader Award.

Megan Schuler, PhD

Dr. Schuler is an associate policy researcher at the RAND Corporation. By training, she is an applied statistician with a strong background in substance use and mental health. A primary theme of her research is heterogeneity in substance use and mental health behaviors, disorders, and treatment, both within populations and across age. Additionally, she has examined how associations between substance use and risk/protective factors vary dynamically across age. Her recent work has focused on substance use and mental health disparities among LGB individuals, a population that experiences elevated behavioral health problems. In particular, her work examines variations among LGB individuals with regard to sexual identity, gender, and age. Methodologically, her research focuses on estimation of causal effects in the analysis of observational health data. Specifically, her statistical research involves extending propensity score methods beyond the traditional two treatment setting (e.g., multiple or latent treatments), as well as to more complex study designs (e.g., surveys or group interventions). Dr. Schuler received her PhD in Mental Health in 2013 from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public

Health. Dr. Schuler completed a NIDA-funded postdoctoral research fellowship at Penn State, where she was part of The Methodology Center and The Prevention Center. Dr. Schuler received her MS in Biostatistics from the Medical University of South Carolina and her BS in Mathematics from Tulane University.

Jaime C. Slaughter-Acey, PhD, MPH

Dr. Slaughter-Acey is an assistant professor in the Departments of Health Systems & Sciences Research and Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Drexel University. She earned a Bachelor of Science in engineering from Texas A&M University, a Master of Public Health from Tulane University, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Additionally, Dr. Slaughter-Acey completed a T32 NIH post-doctoral fellowship in Perinatal and Social Epidemiology at Michigan State University. Her research primarily focuses on environmental (both social and physical) and psychosocial factors that contribute to women's health across the life course, with particular emphasis on the reproductive and perinatal health of marginalized and/or underserved populations. Dr. Slaughter-Acey's contributions to science fall within the following two domains: 1) The use and integration of socioecological and life-course approaches to study of maternal and child health (MCH) and health equity; and 2) Investigating the effectiveness of maternal and child health interventions aimed at improving pregnancy outcomes overall and/or reducing MCH health disparities. Currently, her research related to the first domain involves the examination of the intersectionality of race, class, and skin color in relation to Black women's health outcomes using existing data sources. While research associated with the second domain has focused on investigating the effectiveness of perinatal health interventions such as prenatal case management or home visiting programs, prenatal care, and currently postpartum maternal care.

Megan E. Sutter, PhD

Dr. Sutter is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Behavioral Oncology program at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. She received her Doctorate in Health Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University where she examined the role of stigma in mental health, behavioral health, and quality of life among diverse populations, including individuals with disabilities and their family caregivers, racial/ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) populations. Currently she is gaining skills at Moffitt in community-based participatory research and multilevel interventions for colorectal cancer screening among medically underserved populations in the Tampa Bay region. She is interested in developing community-based multilevel interventions to address cancer health disparities that affect LGBTQ populations from an intersectional perspective.

Ellen Terry, PhD

Dr. Terry graduated from University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Psychology in 2008. She completed both her Master of Arts in 2010 and PhD in 2015 in Clinical Psychology from the University of Tulsa. In 2014-2015, she completed her clinical internship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Oklahoma City Veteran's Affairs Health Care System. After obtaining a PhD, Dr. Terry secured a position as a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Florida, supported by a NIA-funded T32, with a training focus on integrating research in pain and aging. In 2018, Dr. Terry was awarded a NINDS-funded K22 career development award and was promoted to a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Florida. Dr. Terry's research experiences involved using psychophysiological assessment techniques (e.g., electrocardiography, skin

conductance, electromyography) to investigate the influence of emotion on pain and nociceptive processing in various clinical (e.g., fibromyalgia, major depressive disorder) and healthy pain-free populations, as well as investigating how psychosocial variables (e.g., pain catastrophizing, negative affect, anxiety sensitivity) alter pain processing. Dr. Terry's current research interests involve identifying the neural mechanisms by which pain catastrophizing influences the experience of pain. Moreover, she aims to further extend her research by exploring the impact of catastrophizing on pain, and its underlying neural mechanisms, among different ethnic groups with chronic pain associated with knee osteoarthritis.

Laura A. Weingartner, PhD, MS

Dr. Weingartner is a researcher at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Her work aims to identify and address health and healthcare disparities for sexual and gender minority (SGM) communities through medical education interventions. She approaches this work with an undergraduate background in biology and science education. She completed a Master of Science in Botany at Miami University studying the evolution of sex chromosomes through molecular genetics research, and her doctoral training in Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior at Indiana University focused on the evolution of sexual dimorphism and population divergence. Her current research uses medical education to address health disparities across different populations, with a specific focus on improving disparities affecting SGM communities. She serves on the steering committee for eQuality, which is the University of Louisville School of Medicine's pilot program integrating longitudinal curriculum interventions that train medical students to address SGM health disparities. Investigating eQuality curriculum outcomes in collaboration with multidisciplinary partners is one of her main research endeavors, and this current research engages SGM community members as standardized patients who portray patient scenarios for students to practice clinical interview and exam skills to assess how students apply SGM health training in clinical settings. Her interests also include the intersection of data science and disparities research to improve educational intervention development, with the ultimate goal of linking intervention research with SGM patient outcomes.

Sarahn M. Wheeler, MD

Dr. Wheeler is a practicing maternal-fetal medicine specialist at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Wheeler was born and raised in Mt. Laurel, NJ. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University. She completed medical school at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. Dr. Wheeler went on to residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Wheeler completed her maternal-fetal medicine sup-specialty training at Duke University in June of 2016. Dr. Wheeler currently serves as Assistant Professor in the Duke University School of Medicine. In this role, Dr. Wheeler is both a practicing clinician and research faculty. In her clinical role, Dr. Wheeler is the Director of Duke's Prematurity Prevention Program, a specialty clinic that is geared for women with risk factors for preterm birth. In her research role, Dr. Wheeler focuses on race disparities in preterm birth. She is actively involved in research to develop interventions to improve utilization of preterm birth prevention therapies. Dr. Wheeler also serves as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Duke OB/GYN department. In this role, she leads efforts to ensure an inclusive environment for the diverse patients, faculty, staff and trainees within Duke OB/GYN.

Anna Zamora-Kapoor, PhD

Dr. Zamora-Kapoor is an Assistant Research Professor at the Initiative for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH) at Washington State University and an Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington's Department of Pediatrics. Her long-term goal is to identify the most important risk and protective factors for cardiometabolic health conditions in minority populations, to design interventions that can improve their prevention. She has a PhD in Sociology from Columbia University (2013) and completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington-Harborview Medical Center (2013-2016). During her postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Zamora-Kapoor developed expertise in the social determinants of health, Native health and health disparities, published eight peer-reviewed manuscripts, received eight awards, including the 2014 Transnational Science Research Award of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases – Network of Minority Investigators, and was awarded her first grants as a Principal Investigator. Dr. Zamora-Kapoor's research is currently funded through a Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research, from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and two pilot grants from the Health Equity Research Collaborative at Washington State University. She is interested in examining the most important risk and protective factors for hypertension in young adults, as well as the role of birth facilities in breastfeeding outcomes and its disparities. Additionally, Dr. Zamora-Kapoor is the External Health Professions College Representative at the Equity Committee of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and the Community Liaison of the Health Equity Research Collaborative.

Chen Zhang, PhD, MPH

As an epidemiologist and social scientist, Dr. Zhang's research over the last 10 years has been focusing on understanding risk factors associated with the spread of HIV, and how social and cultural influences interact with these identified risk factors in the life context of vulnerable groups, including high-risk women (e.g., female sex workers (FSW), female injected drug users) and men who have sex with men (MSM). Dr. Zhang's research focuses on promotion of biomedical interventions (e.g., HIV testing and linkage to care, voluntary medical male circumcision) to prevent HIV infections among at-risk groups. More recently, Dr. Zhang has been expanding her research to promoting biomedical interventions in other contexts, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use in the United States. Given the advancement of antiretroviral PrEP and multiple vulnerabilities encountered by women of color in the U.S., Dr. Zhang has also focused her research on developing and implementing tailored interventions to promote PrEP cascade (e.g., awareness, uptake, retention and adherence) among women of color who are suffering health disparity and are at high risk. Since Dr. Zhang joined the School of Nursing at the University of Rochester Medical Center, she has successfully competed for internal research funding for studies in the area of minority health and health disparities. These pilot studies will provide the foundation for establishing her work in biomedical and behavioral research among socially disadvantaged and under-represented populations.