

# NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health  
and Health Disparities

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## 2021 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar Biographies



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## Omolola A. Adeoye-Olatunde, PharmD, MS

Dr. Omolola A. Adeoye-Olatunde is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Purdue University College of Pharmacy and the community-engaged research lead at Purdue Center for Health Equity and Innovation. Her interest in health equity and community-based health services stemmed from working as a pharmacy technician for over eight years at her father's innovative, independently-owned community pharmacy, Victory Pharmacy. Dr. Adeoye-Olatunde's research focuses on examining drivers of the effective and equitable implementation and provision of community-based health services among persons disproportionately affected by health inequities. Drivers of interest

include 1) social determinants of health, 2) provider characteristics and practices, 3) policy implications, and 4) health information technology. She applies theory-driven qualitative, mixed-methods, survey, community-engaged, and practice-based research approaches to her work. Dr. Adeoye-Olatunde has received research support from the National Institutes of Health - National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, and the Marion County Public Health Department. Dr. Adeoye-Olatunde lectures on community-based health services, public health, and community outreach in the PharmD program at Purdue University. Dr. Adeoye-Olatunde graduated with a BS in biology in 2013 from Morgan State University. She earned her PharmD from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) University in 2016 before completing her PGY1 community-based pharmacy residency at Kroger Pharmacy in 2017 and postdoctoral fellowship at Purdue University College of Pharmacy in 2020. During her postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Adeoye-Olatunde received her MS in health services, outcomes, and policy in 2019 from Purdue University College of Pharmacy.



## Bianca A. Allison, MD, MPH

Dr. Bianca A. Allison is an assistant professor and primary care pediatrician in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Dr. Allison's research program to date has included mapping the landscape of health disparities around adolescent contraceptive and STI testing access and utilization. This research has further catalyzed her interest in promoting reproductive justice, especially developing innovative and equitable methods of supporting teens in their reproductive goals in primary care settings. Dr. Allison seeks to develop a patient-centered, community-engaged, and equity-oriented research program that reimagines and redesigns reproductive and contraceptive counseling in primary care. She has formal and experiential training in numerous research methods,

including secondary data analyses, primary data collection (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods analyses), and systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Dr. Allison is originally from Syracuse, NY. She earned her undergraduate degree in social anthropology from Harvard University and spent a service year as a tutor and mentor for middle school students through AmeriCorps' City Year in Chicago, IL. She then earned her medical degree from the University of Michigan, and an MPH degree from the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She completed her pediatric residency training at UNC, and in June 2021 completed a two-year NRSA Primary Care Research Fellowship.



### Elizabeth Arthur, PhD, APRN-CNP, AOCNP

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Arthur (she/her) is a nurse practitioner and nurse scientist at The Ohio State University (OSU) James Comprehensive Cancer Center and research assistant professor at the OSU College of Nursing. She is a clinician and health behavior scientist, whose research and practice specializes in optimizing health and quality of life in cancer survivorship. Dr. Arthur has a dual focus in women's sexual wellbeing after cancer treatment and cancer survivorship in LGBTQ+ people. Dr. Arthur has received funding for research in partner communication about sex and intimacy after cancer, as well as a longitudinal study of pelvic health, vaginal microbiome, and patient reported outcomes in women receiving pelvic radiation. Dr. Arthur's other research passion is addressing cancer health disparities through community advocacy and through her community-engaged health equity research. She convenes an SGM Cancer Health Community Advocacy Board to inform culturally relevant cancer care access, quality and coordination. Dr. Arthur's current work focuses on the experiences of SGM chest/breast cancer survivors with provider communication, decision-making, and social

support. Her qualitative research exploring the perceptions and opinions of survivors, caregivers, and providers will inform a multi-level approach to addressing oncology healthcare equity for sex- and gender-diverse survivors. Dr. Arthur earned her BA in psychology and zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1997 and an MS in physiology from Wright State University in 2000. She then applied her passion for health sciences to nursing, earning her MS in 2003 and her PhD in 2018.



### Monique S. Balthazar, DNP, PhD, FNP-BC

Dr. Monique S. Balthazar is an assistant professor at the Georgia State University Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions as well as a clinical instructor at the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. She graduated with her BSN in 2008 and has since gone on to earn an MSN, a post-master's certificate, and two doctorate degrees in nursing. Today she is a nurse scientist as well as a nurse practitioner, double board certified in family practice and acute care. Having completed a rigorous dual PhD in nursing and doctor of nursing practice degree program at Case Western Reserve University, her career focus is to improve health outcomes by translating science into clinical practice. Dr. Balthazar has enjoyed the privilege of providing high quality health care services to vulnerable people of all ages in both rural and urban settings. She seeks to build on those services through her work as a clinical and translational nurse scientist. Her research interests include sleep health in vulnerable populations, specifically among people living with HIV.



## Veronica Barcelona, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN

Dr. Veronica Barcelona is assistant professor at Columbia University School of Nursing. Dr. Barcelona's research interests include understanding risk factors and mechanisms underlying preterm birth through the study of epigenomics, stressors such as racism and discrimination, and cardiovascular disease. She recently completed an NINR-funded K01 study investigating DNA methylation, preterm birth, and high blood pressure among African American children. Using a life course approach and multi-omic methods, she hopes to reduce inequities in pregnancy and adverse birth outcomes for women and families of color. Dr. Barcelona was a Jonas Policy Scholar through the American Academy of Nursing and is an active member of the American Public Health Association and the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. Dr. Barcelona earned a BSN at the University of Michigan,

master's degrees in public health and community health nursing at Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in reproductive and perinatal epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She completed postdoctoral studies at Yale University School of Nursing in epigenomics.

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## Clare C. Brown, PhD, MPH

Dr. Clare C. Brown is an assistant professor in the Health Policy and Management Department of the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), where she serves as the co-director of Arkansas's first Master of Science in health care data analytics program. Dr. Brown is a health system and services researcher whose research projects primarily focus on econometric evaluation of healthcare policy, with an emphasis on access to care as well as maternal and child health outcomes among underserved populations and populations of color. She has specific expertise in the use of insurance claims data for research and recently completed an economic evaluation of investments in patient-centered medical homes, which was published as a Millbank Issue Brief. Dr. Brown additionally has first author publications in JAMA, Pediatrics, Women's Health Issues, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Medical Care, Pharmacoeconomics, Public Health Reports, and other academic journals. Dr. Brown teaches courses in healthcare systems, data

visualization, and healthcare data analytics to students in MS, MPH, and PhD programs. Dr. Brown also serves as a senior health policy and research fellow for the Institute for Medicaid Innovation, where she previously served as a women's health research and policy fellow. Dr. Brown graduated with a degree in psychology from Lyon College of Batesville, AR in 2013. She earned her Master of Public Health in 2015 and her PhD in health systems and services research with a concentration in health economics in 2018, both from UAMS.

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### Kristal Lyn Brown, PhD, MSPH

Dr. Kristal Lyn Brown is a T32 postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine. Her research focuses on prevention and treatment of obesity with an emphasis on cultural adaptations and tailoring for Black women. Dr. Brown is interested in identifying factors that can improve obesity and cardiovascular treatment outcomes for this underserved population. She is particularly interested in exposure to racism and the subsequent adverse physiological and psychological effects—all with an eye towards developing novel intervention approaches. Dr. Brown was selected as a 2019-2020 American Association of University Women (AAUW) fellow, which provided support as she completed her dissertation that centered on explicating the role of race-related discrimination on disparities in obesity risk through a series of three studies. In addition to her academic achievements,

she was selected as a 2018-2019 fellow for the Initiatives of Change, USA, Narrative Change Collaborative (NCC). The NCC was a one-year fellowship, funded by the Kellogg Foundation. Each fellow was awarded funds to help develop counternarratives to Richmond's distorted racial history. Dr. Brown's project, [Brown Girl Narratives](#), focused on the lived experiences of Black women living in the heart of the confederacy. Dr. Brown graduated from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University with a BS in biology pre-med. She earned her Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee before completing a PhD in social and behavioral sciences from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020.



### Lauren L. Brown, PhD, MPH

Dr. Lauren L. Brown is an assistant professor at San Diego State University School of Public Health. Dr. Brown's PhD is in gerontology from the University of Southern California and her research aims to characterize not only the unique challenges Black and Brown people face in reaching older adulthood, making health injustices and scientific racism visible via data and storytelling. But also examines and fosters methods that embolden the positive outcomes and protective resources gained from adverse experiences, celebrating the highest potentiality of the human spirit. Her work provides a novel way to understand the aging experience by grounding stress and health measurement in the Black and Brown experience.



### Diana Cristina Cartagena, PhD, RN, CPNP

Dr. Diana Cristina Cartagena is an assistant professor and director of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) program at Old Dominion University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Dr. Cartagena's background and life experiences motivate her chosen research trajectory and interest on improving health disparities for minority infants and their families. She was born and raised in Colombia, South America, and moved to the United States during her teenage years. During her career as a PNP and through her research, Dr. Cartagena has acquired a unique understanding of factors contributing to maternal feeding practices and their relationship to health outcomes of infants from low-socioeconomic Hispanic families. Dr. Cartagena's research interests include infant feeding, lactation and breastfeeding, early childhood obesity, and maternal mental health. Her long-term professional goal is to become a nationally recognized nurse scientist leading culturally tailored interventions that promote healthy feeding practices and decrease breastfeeding inequities, ultimately

improving health outcomes for full-term and premature Hispanic and Black infants. Furthermore, Dr. Cartagena hopes to become an expert on health disparities research methods capable of mentoring future scientists from underrepresented populations. She is a member of the Virginia Breastfeeding Advisory Committee and a tireless advocate of practices and policies seeking to reduce breastfeeding barriers disproportionately affecting minority mothers and children. Dr. Cartagena graduated with a BS from the University of South Florida and a MS from the University of Colorado, both in nursing. Dr. Cartagena earned her PhD in nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University.



### Daniel Chu, MD, MSPH, FACS, FASCRS

Dr. Daniel I. Chu is an associate professor in the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed his undergraduate work at Yale and medical school at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. After residency at Boston University Medical Center, he completed a colon and rectal surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. His clinical practice specializes in the spectrum of colorectal disease including inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer, diverticular disease, and anorectal disorders. His NIH-funded research interests focus on identifying, understanding, and reducing health disparities in surgery with particular attention to health literacy.



### Felina M. Cordova-Marks, DrPH, MPH

Dr. Felina M. Cordova-Marks is an assistant professor at the University of Arizona, Director of Community Engagement for the University of Arizona College of Public Health CoVHORT: COVID-19 Research Study, chairperson for the Hopi Education Endowment Fund Board and former postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona's Cancer Center. Dr Cordova-Marks is also a mentor to University of Arizona undergraduate and graduate students. She is a published author on topics such as, cancer, cardiology, informal health caregiving, and American Indian health. She was recently awarded Tucson's Woman of the Year 40 Under 40 by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and named a Health Equity Scholar by the American Psychosocial Oncology Society as well as a Tribal Research Cancer Control Program Fellow with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Dr Cordova-Marks is also the recipient of the National Native American 40 Under 40 Award, and the University of Arizona Centennial Award. She earned a BS in microbiology, an MS in cellular and molecular medicine, and an MPH and DrPH in family and child health—all from the University of Arizona.



### Yamnia I. Cortés, PhD, MPH, FNP-BC, FAHA

Dr. Yamnia I. Cortés is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Cortés leads an interdisciplinary research program focused on understanding the sociocultural, environmental, behavioral and biological factors that impact midlife women's cardiovascular health. Additionally, she designs interventions to improve menopause-related symptoms and reduce cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk in midlife women, particularly Latinas. Another line of research examines the interface between reproductive health and chronic disease. In this work she integrates methods from biobehavioral science, epidemiology, and life course research. As part of her NIMHD-funded K23, Dr. Cortés is pilot testing a community-engaged, multi-component intervention to reduce CVD risk among Latinas during the menopause transition. In 2019 she received a North American Menopause Society New Investigator Award for her work on endogenous sex hormones and subclinical CVD in midlife women. Dr. Cortés is a fellow of the American Heart Association, recipient of an NHLBI-funded Loan Repayment Program Award in Clinical Research, and a 2021 fellow of the

Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and Innovators. Dr. Cortés earned a BA in biology with a concentration in Latino/a studies at Williams College. She completed an MPH in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University, where she also earned a BS/MS in nursing. In 2015, she earned a PhD from Columbia University School of Nursing and subsequently completed postdoctoral training in cardiovascular epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.



### Lara N. Coughlin, PhD

Dr. Lara N. Coughlin is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, an adjunct assistant professor in the Psychology Department, and a licensed clinical psychologist at the University of Michigan. Dr. Coughlin earned a BS in psychology in 2009 from Davidson College. She earned an MS and a PhD in clinical psychology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where she studied behavioral economic processes underlying substance use disorders. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Durham VA Medical Center and an NIAAA T32 post-doctoral fellowship in the Addiction Center in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. Dr. Coughlin is actively engaged in patient care, seeing patients through the University of Michigan Addiction

Treatment Clinic. Currently, Dr. Coughlin's research focuses on complementary lines of work to improve prevention and treatment within high-risk populations who misuse substances. As a part of her NIAAA-funded K23 project, she is adapting and culturally re-centering two behavioral economic interventions for adults who misuse alcohol in rural areas. This work focuses on harnessing digital technology to optimize the content and context of intervention delivery to develop adaptive mobile interventions to reduce alcohol misuse and its consequences (e.g., driving while intoxicated). Through her career development award, she is building expertise in developing, testing, and implementing optimized interventions for underserved populations, leveraging micrologitudinal data collection designs, and providing personalized mobile health treatments that increase reach and access of interventions to reduce substance misuse and prevent consequences from use.



### Maria Carlota Dao, PhD

Dr. Maria Carlota Dao is an assistant professor of human nutrition in the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems at the University of New Hampshire. As an interdisciplinary scientist focused on obesity and health disparities research, Dr. Dao investigates the interplay of cardiometabolic risks, dietary and psychosocial factors, and the gut microbiota. Ongoing projects involve the assessment of dietary habits, gut microbiota, and metabolic outcomes in adults of Hispanic background at risk for food insecurity and chronic disease. Prior to her appointment at UNH, Dr. Dao was a scientist III at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, where she studied food culture and eating behavior in relation to weight status and weight management. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Sorbonne University / INSERM in France. Here, Dr. Dao used 'omics' data integration approaches to study the role of the

gut microbiota in obesity-related morbidities, revealing new insights on the interaction between human health, gut microbiota, and environmental factors. A native of Venezuela, Dr. Dao graduated with a BA in biochemistry and molecular biology and a minor in mathematics from Boston University in 2005. She earned an MS in 2010 and PhD in 2013 in biochemical and molecular nutrition with a concentration in immunology from Tufts University. She has received awards for her research including the Simonian Prize for Research Excellence in Nutrition Science and Policy. Throughout her career, Dr. Dao has been engaged in initiatives to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity in research.





### Rebecca Delafield, PhD, MPH

Dr. Rebecca Delafield is an assistant professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine. Dr. Delafield's research interests include maternal and perinatal health, health and healthcare disparities impacting Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities, and the effect of socio-cultural and healthcare system factors, including discrimination and bias, on health and healthcare outcomes. Her recent published works describe outcomes from an investigation into factors influencing cesarean delivery among Micronesian women living in Hawai'i. Qualitative research and community-based participatory research and other community-engaged research approaches are also areas of interest. Dr. Delafield graduated from Macalester College in 1998 with a BA in sociology. She earned an MPH in maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003. She worked for over a decade as a clinical research coordinator at the University of Hawai'i and in 2019 earned a PhD in public health,

with a focus on community-based and translational research from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



### Monica Maria Diaz, MD, MS

Dr. Monica Maria Diaz is a neurologist and an assistant professor of neurology in the Division of Multiple Sclerosis/Neuroimmunology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Dr. Diaz's research interests include investigating the prevalence and risk factors for HIV-associated neurocognitive impairment and HIV-associated neurological sequelae and tropical neuroinfectious diseases in international settings and among Latinos living in the U.S. She is also interested in disparities in access to specialty care in neuroimmunology and risk factors for neuroimmunologic and demyelinating conditions in Latin America and among racial/ethnic minorities living in the U.S. Dr. Diaz co-leads several studies in Peru investigating cognitive impairment among older people with HIV and biomarkers associated with cognitive impairment among Latinos with HIV. Dr. Diaz earned her MD from State University of New York—Downstate College of Medicine and earned an MS in clinical research from the Medical University of South Carolina. She completed a residency in neurology at Yale University/Yale-New Haven Hospital. Afterwards, she completed her fellowship at University of California, San Diego in neuro-infectious diseases and MS/neuroimmunology, and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship through the NIH Fogarty International Center in Lima, Peru. She continues to collaborate with investigators in Peru on various studies related to HIV, dementia and neuroimmunologic conditions.

Afterwards, she completed her fellowship at University of California, San Diego in neuro-infectious diseases and MS/neuroimmunology, and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship through the NIH Fogarty International Center in Lima, Peru. She continues to collaborate with investigators in Peru on various studies related to HIV, dementia and neuroimmunologic conditions.



### Adriana Espinosa, PhD

Dr. Adriana Espinosa is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at The City College of New York, CUNY. She earned a PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Espinosa leads an interdisciplinary research program that centers on the examination of salient factors that create, maintain, and exacerbate health disparities among Black and Hispanic individuals, including immigrants. Her work reveals how the intersection of socioeconomic, environmental, and psychological risk factors over the life span influence mental and physical health of racial ethnic minorities. Dr. Espinosa's long-term goal is to create a scientific framework that incorporates the complex interaction of salient risk

and protective factors, and which informs policy and interventions to reduce health disparities through the prevention and treatment of chronic morbidity. Dr. Espinosa was a Predoctoral Ford Fellow and served as lead statistician of an NIH-funded SCORE grant. She is currently the PI of an institutional grant that examines adherence to practices that prevent the infection and transmission of Covid-19 among Hispanics. She is also the PI of an NCI-funded collaborative agreement pre-pilot project that examines disparities in the treatment of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) among Black and Hispanic women.

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### Melissa Fuster, PhD

Dr. Melissa Fuster is associate professor of public health nutrition at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Fuster's research examines the cultural and structural factors influencing food practices and the policies implemented to improve them. This work applies a multidisciplinary and intersectional approach to examine underlying determinants of diet-related health inequities. Her forthcoming book "Caribeños at the Table: How Migration, Health, and Race Intersect in New York City" (University of North Carolina Press), aims to change how we address diet-related disparities among ethnic communities. She shows how our prevalent emphasis on food culture as cause and solution fails to fully engage the structural factors that underlie the community's access to food and high-quality healthcare. Building on this work, Dr. Fuster is currently tackling food-access issues via the Latin

American Restaurants in Action (LARIa) Project, supported by her NHLBI Career Development (K01) Award. The LARIa Project applies systems science, design thinking, and implementation sciences to engage Latin restaurants in designing and implementing innovations to facilitate healthier eating. Moving forward, Dr. Fuster aims to apply findings from the LARIa Project to tackle policy-level solutions for healthier and equitable community food environments. Dr. Fuster completed her PhD in food policy and applied nutrition at the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and a post-doctoral fellowship in food studies at New York University. Before joining the faculty at Tulane, she was an assistant professor at the City University of New York Brooklyn College.

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### Angela Gutiérrez, PhD, MPH

Dr. Angela Gutiérrez is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Southern California (USC) Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. She will begin her appointment as assistant professor in the Department of Social Medicine at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in September 2021. Dr. Gutiérrez conducts research at the intersections of public health, medical sociology, and education and employs quantitative, qualitative, and community-based participatory research methods to identify the factors that buffer or exacerbate health and educational disparities among Latinx adults and other socially disadvantaged groups. Her three interdisciplinary lines of research focus on: (1) risk and resilience among racial and ethnic minorities with chronic health conditions; (2) community-based and culturally informed health

research among under-resourced communities; and (3) workforce diversity in the biomedical sciences. Collectively, these lines of research identify the social factors contributing to the distribution of illness and wellness at the population level, with an overarching goal of mitigating health disparities and promoting health equity. Dr. Gutiérrez earned her B.A. degrees in public health policy and sociology from UC Irvine. She graduated with a Master of Public Health from CSU Fullerton in 2015 and earned her PhD in community health sciences in 2020 from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.



### Colleen K. Gutman, MD

Dr. Colleen K. Gutman is an assistant professor of pediatric emergency medicine at the University of Florida. Dr. Gutman's focus is health services research that rigorously explores and assesses healthcare disparities, with an aim of translating such research into meaningful change through development and evaluation of readily implementable interventions. Dr. Gutman graduated with a BS in biology and a BA in spanish from the University of Florida in 2009 and earned an MD from Columbia University in 2013. She completed a pediatric residency and served as a chief resident at the University of Washington before completing a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Emory University. Dr. Gutman joined the faculty in emergency medicine at the University of Florida in 2020. She is particularly interested in provider-patient communication and has studied communication

with limited English proficient families in the pediatric emergency department. Dr. Gutman also has experience in implementation science, having conducted research supporting routine adolescent HIV screening in the pediatric emergency department. Her prior work demonstrates that in the time-pressured setting of a high-acuity pediatric ED, marginalized populations may not receive evidence-based care and are at risk for suboptimal patient-physician communication. She is currently the recipient of a University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute KL2 Scholars Award supporting her in conducting a mixed-methods study of disparities and bias in the emergency management of young febrile infants.



### Natalia Ivana Heredia, PhD, MPH

Dr. Natalia Ivana Heredia is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health. She earned a BA in both psychology and policy studies from Rice University, an MPH in health promotion from Columbia University and a PhD in behavioral sciences from UTHealth School of Public Health. She was a predoctoral fellow on a National Cancer Institute R25 training grant and completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Health Disparities Research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Her research focuses on cancer and chronic disease prevention for Hispanic/Latino adults and families through the promotion of physical activity and healthy diets. Using mixed methods, Dr. Heredia seeks to identify multilevel determinants of physical activity and diet, and then use this body of work to inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of interventions to improve these lifestyle behaviors, especially in

Hispanic/Latino adults and other minority populations. Dr. Heredia currently has a Prevent Cancer Foundation grant that focuses on developing and pilot testing a behavioral lifestyle intervention for the management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in Hispanic/Latino adults to prevent adverse liver outcomes.



### Nazanin Mina Heydarian, PhD

Dr. Nazanin Heydarian is a research scientist at the University of Texas at Austin and will be joining the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley faculty as assistant professor in Fall 2021. She earned her BA in psychology with a music minor, her clinical psychology MA, and her health psychology PhD with a certificate in quantitative methods all at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Heydarian's research agenda has begun to characterize chronic disease disparities faced by disabled persons and identify disability-relevant chronic disease self-management practices, social-cognitive and interpersonal barriers for patients, with particular focus on the patient-provider relationship. This work is significant because it is the first to examine certain chronic disease and conditions in the blind population, and begins to identify environmental, systemic, and social barriers that contribute to health disparities experienced by blind persons. Dr. Heydarian's work is innovative in that it uses rigorous mixed methods and inclusive research designs to identify barriers in an understudied health

disparities population. In recognition of her work, Dr. Heydarian received the Dissertation of the Year award from her alma mater university as well as a competitive travel award to attend and present at the National Hispanic Science Network. She supported a major data collection effort with highly competitive National Federation of the Blind (NFB) scholarships. Recently, she was invited to serve as section editor of the Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research and as a member of the NFB Research Advisory Council. These experiences and achievements speak to the significance of Dr. Heydarian's program of research and her potential as an independent investigator in health disparities.



### Josephine T. Hinds III, PhD

Dr. Josephine T. (Tres) Hinds is a T32 postdoctoral research fellow at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Hinds' research specializes in documenting and explaining tobacco disparities among sexual and gender minority (SGM) young adults using an intersectional and multilevel lens. Dr. Hinds explores the ways SGM identity elements influence tobacco product use, along with other highly co-occurring behaviors like alcohol and cannabis use using quantitative and qualitative methods. Dr. Hinds earned a BS from the US Military Academy at West Point in 2004 and served eight years on active duty in the US Army Aviation branch. Since then, Dr. Hinds earned a PhD and MS in health behavior and health education from the University of Texas at Austin, and enjoyed being a trainee in the Texas Tobacco Center for Regulatory Science (TCORS).



### Charvonne N. Holliday, PhD, MPH

Dr. Charvonne N. Holliday is an assistant professor in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She earned a PhD in behavioral and community health sciences from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, an MPH from Walden University, and a BA in biology from Washington & Jefferson College. Dr. Holliday's research focuses on achieving equity in women's health by understanding and addressing social and structural determinants of intimate partner violence (IPV) and reproductive coercion (RC) and related racial and ethnic disparities. Dr. Holliday's current research agenda is three-fold: 1) examining the impact of risk factors like structural racism and gender-based discrimination on the health and stability of IPV/RC survivors and women's risk of experiencing violence, 2) evaluating and strengthening IPV intervention programming for urban men through multidisciplinary collaboration, and 3) understanding and assessing men's use of RC in their intimate relationships. Dr. Holliday's work engages both survivors of IPV/RC and people who use violence

against intimate partners to maximize the full benefit of violence prevention and intervention strategies. She often uses a mixed-methods research approach, including participatory research and spatial analyses. Dr. Holliday's research on men's use of RC is supported by an NIH-funded Building Interdisciplinary Careers in Women's Health K12 award.



### Robert Jeffrey Huang, MD, MS

Dr. Robert Jeffrey Huang is an NIH-supported epidemiologist and early-stage investigator at Stanford University who seeks to improve the health of minority groups and immigrants in the United States. Dr. Huang's research interest is using data science to improve health equity, with a particular focus on cancer disparities. His current research is funded by a career development grant (K08) from the National Cancer Institute (CA252635) that is focused on developing gastric cancer risk-prediction models applicable to racial/ethnic minority populations. His previous work focused on understanding health disparities in the incidence of gastrointestinal cancer between disaggregated racial groups, exploring regional disparities in cancer survivorship in rural communities, and

validating biomarkers for precision cancer prevention in minority populations. Dr. Huang graduated with a bachelor's degree in biochemical sciences, magna cum laude from Harvard University in 2007. He earned an MD from the Duke University School of Medicine in 2011, and a master's degree in epidemiology from Stanford University in 2017. Dr. Huang is also a practicing gastroenterologist, who uses endoscopic procedures to improve both the early detection and prevention of gastrointestinal cancers.



### April L. Jones, PhD, LMSW

Dr. April L. Jones is the department head and an associate professor at Tuskegee University College of Arts and Sciences in the Department of Social Work in Tuskegee, AL. Dr. Jones earned a BA in sociology from Stillman College, an MSW from The University of Alabama, an MS in management from Faulkner University, an MS in instructional design and technology from Walden University, and a PhD in organizational psychology from Walden University. Dr. Jones's research interests related to NIH include health disparities related to nonalcoholic liver disease, mental health, substance abuse and alcoholism, and youth development in the African American population in rural areas. Dr. Jones instructs social work courses in research, medical social work, substance abuse, mental health, among many others. Notable accomplishments/honors are being a licensed social worker, a board of directors member for the Council on Social Work

Education as the bachelor of social work programs representative; and she was recently awarded a contract for an international research study with USAID and World Education, Inc. in St. Lucia. In her leisure time she enjoys writing fiction and nonfiction books about cancer, youth character, and her father's biography as a civil rights local leader in Alabama's Redistricting in the 1980s.



### Eun Ji Kim, MD, MS, MS

Dr. Eun Ji Kim is an assistant professor of Feinberg Institutes for Medical Research. Her research interest lies in improving health outcomes, specifically heart and vascular diseases, among the underserved population. She is particularly interested in leveraging health information technologies to address social needs associated with health outcomes. Her current projects include understanding racial/ethnic disparity in healthcare utilization, examining an association between social determinants of health needs and health outcomes, and improving clinical outcomes in ambulatory settings. She has successfully published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national conferences. Dr. Kim graduated with a BA in biology and biochemistry and an MS in chemistry in 2006 from the University of Pennsylvania. After completing an internal medicine residency at Northwell Health in 2014, Dr. Kim attended general internal medicine fellowship and earned an MS in health services research at Boston University in 2017.



### Deborah Lefkowitz, PhD

Dr. Deborah Lefkowitz is an assistant professional researcher at the University of California Riverside in the Center for Health Disparities Research and Department of Anthropology. She earned a BA summa cum laude in visual and environmental studies from Harvard University, and a PhD in social ecology from the University of California Irvine. Her community-engaged research focuses on cancer survivorship, qualitative methods, and access to health, information, and legal services for medically underserved populations. She received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Cancer Institute (2016-2018) and a fellowship from the University of California Humanities Research Institute (2015) for her dissertation research. This interdisciplinary research examined breast cancer service delivery challenges and post-treatment needs in Inland Southern California. In 2019, she received the Dean's Inclusive Excellence Research Award in

recognition of her extensive community outreach to include patients/survivors consistently underrepresented in cancer research. Currently, Dr. Lefkowitz is lead researcher on an NIMHD administrative supplement; she employs a social ecological framework to investigate how low-income Southern Californians are seeking and obtaining health information during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is certified as an oncology patient navigator-certified generalist through the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators and serves on the national advisory committee for the Cancer Legal Resource Center. Prior to embarking on a research career, Dr. Lefkowitz was an internationally recognized visual artist and documentary filmmaker; she created a significant body of work on how individuals confront traumatic, life-altering experiences.



### Melissa Lewis, PhD

Dr. Melissa Lewis is an assistant professor of family and community medicine at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. She earned a PhD in medical family therapy from East Carolina University. Dr. Lewis partners with Indigenous communities to revitalize traditional lifeways to ameliorate the negative effects of colonization, thereby improving health and well-being. Dr. Lewis works with Cherokee community members to provide language immersion classes for children and traditional food classes in the Cherokee language. Her NHLBI K01 aims to create and launch a program that teaches tribal citizens Cherokee culture, language, and history to reduce CVD health risks. She has also created and is piloting an Indigenous health toolkit to train healthcare providers to deliver more effective care to Indigenous patients.

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### Gabriela López, PhD

Dr. Gabriela López is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Alcohol and Addictions Studies at Brown University's School of Public Health, funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Dr. López earned a PhD in clinical psychology in 2020 from the University of New Mexico. She completed her residency in adult psychology at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Lopez's program of research focuses on examining the intersection of alcohol use and sexual assault among sexual minority women (e.g., lesbian, bisexual). Specifically, her long-term career goals center around understanding and reducing heavy drinking among bi+ women with histories of sexual assault. She was recently awarded an internal grant to develop culturally specific study materials to aid in the national recruitment of

bisexual women with histories of sexual assault. Clinically, she is interested in working with mothers experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, racial/ethnic minorities, and people who have multiple minority identities.

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### Catalina Lopez-Quintero, MD, MPH, PhD

Dr. Catalina Lopez-Quintero is an assistant professor at the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Florida. Catalina's research has focused on disentangling the role that factors at different levels of influence (e.g., biological, behavioral, socio-cultural, or political) play in the transitions and trajectories from the early stages of drug use involvement to the development of drug use disorders and other related outcomes (e.g., mortality). Her current federally funded research (K01DA046715) aims to develop a comprehensive and interdisciplinary insight of the mechanisms that explain disparities in drug use transitions and trajectories by focusing on the complex interactions between neuropsychological and socio-cultural level factors. Through her research she aims to contribute to inform policy and the design of prevention and treatment strategies to reduce the impact of drug use across the use continuum and among vulnerable populations. Catalina earned an MD (1998) at Universidad del

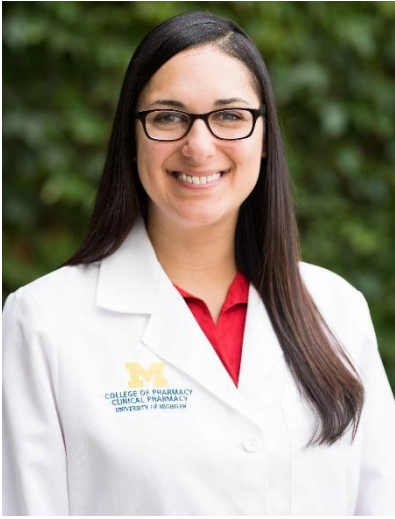
Rosario, in Bogotá, Colombia, an MPH (2003) and PhD in public health (2012) at the Braun School of Public Health, Hebrew University - Hadassah in Israel. She also completed post-graduate training and research experience in psychiatric epidemiology at the New York State Psychiatric Institute - Columbia University (2009-2010), drug dependence epidemiology at Michigan State University (2012-2013 and 2014-2016), drug use and HIV disparities (2013-2014) and drug use neuropsychology (2016-2018) at Florida International University. Every week at the Research Initiatives on Substance use and Equity Lab, she trains students from underrepresented groups in science interested in tackling drug use-related disparities from a multidisciplinary perspective.



### Mary F. Love, PhD, MSN, RN

Dr. Mary F. Love is an assistant professor with the University of Houston College of Nursing. Dr. Love's background in acute coronary care and clinical research led to work in cardiac rehabilitation, where she coordinated a multidisciplinary team in the initiation of a program serving inpatients and outpatients. Her research focuses on the effect of psychological health on self-care and quality of life for stroke survivors in early recovery, with a focus on minority populations and women. The stress of an acute stroke, often exacerbated by other stressors in the survivor's life, can interfere with adherence to treatments aimed at reducing the risk of recurrent stroke, including the management of hypertension. Non-pharmacological interventions to support positive psychological health may provide a mechanism for improvement in self-care of stroke survivors. Dr. Love is currently the

PI for a prospective mixed-methods study focused on the effects of racism and resilience on quality of life for stroke survivors who self-identify as a Black person or African American. Dr. Love graduated with a BS in nursing from The University of Texas at Austin. She earned an MS in nursing (2002) and a PhD in nursing (2019) from The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston. In 2019 she participated in the AHA Ten-Day Seminar on the Epidemiology and Prevention of CVD and Stroke. Dr. Love joined UH CON in 2019, where she serves as research chair of the Phi Chi Sigma chapter, and as a member of the Committee for Racial Equity and Social Justice.



### Jasmine A. Luzum, PharmD, PhD, BCPS

Dr. Jasmine A. Luzum (formerly Talameh) is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan (U-M) College of Pharmacy. Her goal is to improve medication outcomes and disparities in patients with cardiovascular disease, especially heart failure. Her clinical and translational research lab works to accomplish that goal using a variety of research approaches, with an emphasis on pharmacogenomics. Dr. Luzum's most recent research interests include distinguishing the effects of race versus genomic ancestry in cardiovascular medication outcomes and polygenic scores. Her research has been funded by the most prestigious sponsors (e.g., NIH and the American Heart Association), published in top journals (e.g., *Cell Metabolism and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*), and presented at major conferences (e.g., American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions). Dr. Luzum has

been a member of the U-M Department of Clinical Pharmacy since 2016. She earned a PharmD summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008 and a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy in 2013. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Ohio State University College of Medicine and Center for Pharmacogenomics in 2016. Dr. Luzum has been a licensed pharmacist since 2008, for which she has worked in a variety of practice settings, including community pharmacies and inpatient and outpatient cardiovascular services. She became a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties and an applied pharmacologist by the American Board of Clinical Pharmacology in 2015.



### Kristin G. Maki, PhD

Dr. Kristin G. Maki is a postdoctoral fellow at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Maki's research interests include health communication, shared decision-making, and message design, with a focus on improving each of these areas for underserved populations. Dr. Maki's scholarly background is centered in the field of communication. Her research spans a broad range of applications aimed at improving health for individuals, including social support, persuasion, message effects, and patient-clinician communication. In her undergraduate work, Dr. Maki graduated from Tompkins-Cortland Community College with an AS in communication and media arts

(2006) with a focus in broadcast journalism, and from the State University of New York College at Geneseo with a BA in communication (2008). After earning an MS in strategic communications at Ithaca College (2010), Dr. Maki worked as an editorial assistant at Momentum Media Sports Publishing, which produced three nationally distributed trade journals for high school and college athletic trainers, athletic directors, and coaches. In 2018, Dr. Maki earned a PhD in communication at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. She is currently a fellow in the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center; her appointment is in the Department of Health Services Research, where she is a member of the Decision Support Lab.



### Janielle P. Maynard, PhD

Dr. Janielle P. Maynard is an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHU SOM). Dr. Maynard's research interests involve the investigation of immunobiological factors that contribute to cancer health disparities in racial/ethnic minorities and underserved populations. Molecular pathology techniques are used to characterize the inflammatory landscape of prostate cancer and pancreatic cancer tissues from patients with varied genetic ancestry. Another interest involves the investigation of inflammation-associated P2 purinergic receptors and their role in cancer initiation and aggressiveness. Specifically, Dr. Maynard's studies identified P2X4 purinergic receptors as overexpressed in prostate cancer compared to benign tissues, in tumors from White men compared to Black men, and in cases with common genetic alterations. Translational approaches are

aimed at therapeutically targeting P2X4 purinergic receptors in men with aggressive prostate cancer. Dr. Maynard graduated with a BS in biology and chemistry from Howard University in 2009. She earned a PhD in translational biology and molecular medicine from Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Maynard joined the Department of Pathology at the JHU SOM as a postdoctoral fellow in 2016 where she successfully competed for a Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Early Investigator Award. She also won numerous awards including the JHU Postdoctoral Association Conference Award, a JHU Pathology Young Investigator's Day Translational Research Award, an American Association for Cancer Research Scholar in Training Award, and the JHU SOM Inaugural Postdoctoral Excellence in Mentoring Award. Dr. Maynard joined the faculty in the Pathology Department at the JHU SOM in 2021.



### Raúl Mejía, MD, PhD

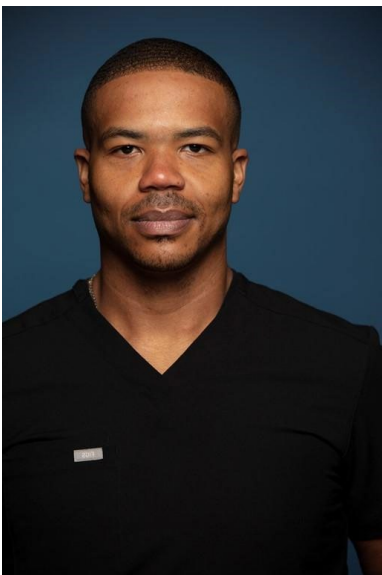
Dr. Raúl Mejía is chief of general internal medicine at the Hospital de Clinicas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. He also is the lead investigator at CEDES focused on the impact of pro-tobacco messages in entertainment media and marketing on adolescent risk behaviors, tobacco cessation assistance for vulnerable populations, and strategies to enhance health and media literacy among Latinos. He was the site PI or co-PI for a range of NIH-funded tobacco research projects, including "Tobacco Use Among Argentinean Youth: A Cohort Study," "Tobacco Control Research and Training in South America Project," and "Cinema smoking and youth smoking in Latin America." Dr. Mejía graduated with

honors from the University of Buenos Aires, then completed a fellowship in international community medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and later obtained a doctorate in medical humanities. In 2008, he received the Global Health Leadership Award from the Global Health Research Initiative in Canada for directing the "Mentoring in Tobacco Control Research in Argentina Project." From April 2018 to December 2019, he was the director of health research at the Ministry of Health of Argentina where he was responsible for conducting the ministry's research policies and coordinating the implementation and evaluation of calls for research projects promoted by the ministry. Dr. Mejía also has a strong background in mentoring, having mentored over 30 junior researchers in Argentina and the U.S. over his 20 years as a senior investigator. Since 2001, 100 peer-reviewed papers were published by his group, most in international journals.



## Evelyn Mercado, PhD

Dr. Evelyn Mercado is an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. She earned a PhD in human development at the University of California Davis and was an NIMH postdoctoral trainee in the Health Psychology program at UCLA. Dr. Mercado takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine how psychosocial stressors, such as experiences of racial and ethnic discrimination, impact the development of psychopathology among youth of color, with a focus on youth from Latin American backgrounds. Her research examines multiple levels of influence including biological processes (i.e., stress hormones and immune markers), interpersonal factors (e.g., parent-youth emotion dynamics) and sociocultural influences (e.g., racial/ethnic identity formation, cultural values). Her previous work has employed longitudinal and experimental research designs to examine how parents and children (infants, preschoolers, and adolescents) regulate their emotions and physiology together (i.e., coregulation) in lab and home settings, and how these patterns of coregulation are impacted by stressors (e.g., family stress, work stress). One of the primary aims of her research program is to explore how family relationships can buffer Latinx youth from the negative impact of racism in their daily lives. By documenting resilience factors in families across Latinx backgrounds, in the future she hopes to develop a family-centered community-partnered intervention to support the wellbeing of youth and their families. Dr. Mercado's lab prioritizes community outreach and has partnered with programs such as Upward Bound, to provide hands on research training to underserved youth in the community. Dr. Mercado currently serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* as well as *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*.



## Adam J. Milam, MD, PhD, MHS

Dr. Adam J. Milam is an adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellow at Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Milam completed his residency in anesthesiology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. He graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, MI. Prior to medical school, he attended Johns Hopkins University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in public health (2008). He also holds a Master of Health Science (2009) as well as a Doctorate in Public Health from the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH, 2012). Dr. Milam has a part-time faculty appointment at JHSPH. His research is rooted in practices, policies, and interventions to address health disparities and health inequities. Dr. Milam has published over 70 peer-reviewed publications and has more than 75 national and international presentations. His research has been featured in leading public health journals as well as in *Rolling Stone* and *US News & World Report*. His work has been used to guide local and state legislation that promote health equity. Dr. Milam has received multiple national awards including the Herbert W. Nickens Student Scholarship from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee.



## Elizabeth Mollard, PhD

Dr. Elizabeth Mollard is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing. She practices clinically as a certified nurse midwife and women's health nurse practitioner. Dr. Mollard is completing a postdoctoral clinical research fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic focused on racial and ethnic maternal health disparities. Her research interests are in identifying and leveraging strengths to reduce maternal health disparities. Specifically, this research aims to identify the inherent strengths and health-promoting behaviors of risk-resilient individuals within racially and ethnically diverse women most at risk for maternal morbidity and mortality health disparities. By identifying naturally occurring strengths and risk resilience, innovative culturally responsive interventions can be developed and personalized to improve maternal health outcomes. Dr. Mollard's other research interests lie in strengths-based culturally responsive research related to immigrant and refugee health in her role as co-PI of the University of Nebraska Forced

Migration and Health Research Lab. Dr. Mollard earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, a master's degree from the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Cincinnati, a Post-Graduate Certificate in nurse midwifery from the University of Colorado-Anschutz, and a PhD in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She sits on the national AWHONN research advisory panel, was appointed an AHRQ postpartum mental health expert advisor, and sits on the Nebraska Women's Health Advisory Council.



## Emily Hammad Mrig, PhD, MA

Dr. Emily Hammad Mrig is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Yale University School of Public Health. She earned a PhD in health and behavioral sciences and an MA in medical anthropology from the University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Mrig is an interdisciplinary scholar with diverse training and experience in public health, health policy and social science that she applies to investigating inequities in access to health care, especially in the context of precision medicine, cancer, and end-of-life care. Her research engages qualitative and mixed-methods approaches to elicit, synthesize, and amplify the experiences of patients, families, clinicians, community advocates, and other actors in healthcare settings to examine complex causal processes that produce health disparities. Dr.

Mrig's postdoctoral research focuses on the broader institutional, community, and policy factors that shape access to healthcare, the origins of health disparities, and the possibility of health policy interventions to produce effective change. Her current projects include an examination of individual-level barriers to precision medicine among individuals with hereditary conditions, and an investigation of the institutional structures supporting access to healthcare, including state-based Consumer Assistance Programs. Additional areas of research include the social context of end-of-life decision making, especially the ways in which deeply embedded sociocultural practices contribute to systemic constraints to palliative and hospice care. Dr. Mrig has recently been awarded several honors for her work, including the University of Colorado Outstanding PhD Award and the AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship Prize.

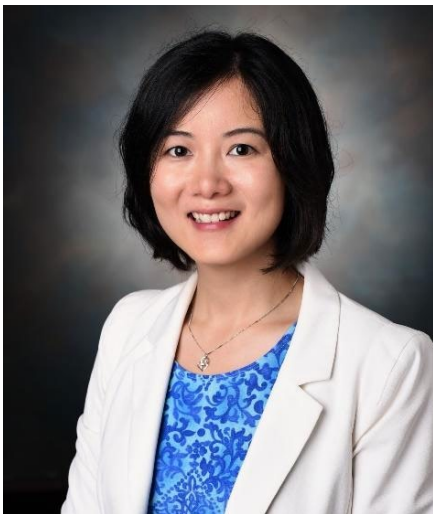


### Miriam Mutambudzi, PhD

Dr. Miriam Mutambudzi is an assistant professor at Syracuse University, Department of Public Health. Dr. Mutambudzi's research interests include life course examination of social determinants of health, work-related health and social outcomes, chronic health conditions, aging and health, and vulnerable populations. Her research has largely been directed towards the use of longitudinal data to assess disparities in morbidity, disability, and mortality, with particular interest in how varied social determinants of health contribute to onset and progression of long term mental and physical health conditions in vulnerable populations and older adults in the U.S. and Europe. She is currently conducting a preliminary study of cardiovascular disease risk in mid-old age resettled refugees in Central New York. She teaches two courses: Health Disparities and Underserved Communities and Global Aging and Health. Dr. Mutambudzi completed her doctorate at the University of Connecticut and has taught and conducted research in the U.S. and Europe. She along with her co-authors are the 2020 recipients of the Kammer Emmett

Authorship Award from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine for the most outstanding article published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in 2019.

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### Muzi Na, PhD, MHS

Dr. Muzi Na is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Na earned a PhD in human nutrition and an MHS in biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Before joining Penn State, she did her postdoctoral training at University of California, Davis in nutritional epidemiology and global nutrition. Dr. Na's research program explores food insecurity, nutrition, psychosocial and behavioral factors in relation to a variety of health outcomes in vulnerable populations. Specifically, Dr. Na's research interest centers on promoting mental and sleep health among mothers, infants, children, and low-income populations through modifiable nutritional and behavioral interventions. As the PI or co-PI, Dr. Na has led several maternal and child nutrition projects in international settings funded by UNICEF, GAIN, and USAID-CRS.

Dr. Na is currently leading two pilot research projects that are funded by the Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute and Social Science Research Institute on how food insecurity influences affect, sleep, heart health and cognitive function in low-income populations. For her health disparity research, Dr. Na has been appointed as the Broadhurst Career Development Professor for the Study of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in 2019. Currently, Dr. Na serves as the secretary for the Community and Public Health Nutrition Research Interest Section at the American Society for Nutrition and as associate editor for the Nutrition Journal.

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### Sarah H. Nash, PhD, MPH, CPH

Dr. Sarah H. Nash is an assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Iowa College of Public Health and a full member of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Nash's research bridges population-based data science and community-based work to address cancer disparities, primarily among American Indian and Alaska Native people, and rural residents. Dr. Nash has broad training in cancer prevention, cancer surveillance, nutrition epidemiology, and community engagement, and strives to combine these interests in a diverse translational research program that

directly benefits communities. Broadly, her research interests include: using cancer surveillance data to understand the burden of cancer in underserved populations; understanding the provision of cancer prevention and treatment services to underserved populations, and the impact of care on cancer outcomes; and epidemiologic studies to investigate cancer risk and protective factors among underserved populations. Prior to her current appointment at the University of Iowa, Dr. Nash was the director of cancer surveillance, and the PI of the SEER Alaska Native Tumor Registry at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. She earned a BA (Hons) in archaeology and anthropology from Cambridge University in 2007, a PhD in biological sciences from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2013, and an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2014. She completed her postdoctoral training with the NCI's Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program.

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### Nkiru Nwawulezi, PhD

Dr. Nkiru Nwawulezi is an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and affiliate faculty at Yale School of Public Health. She earned a doctorate in ecological-community psychology at Michigan State University and has additional graduate certifications in college teaching, community engagement, and quantitative research methods. Her research examines the ecological factors that enhance equity within and across the domestic violence housing continuum. She aims to improve the social and material conditions for survivors of gender-based violence who occupy multiply marginalized social identities. Dr. Nwawulezi also seeks to develop sustainable survivor-centered, community-based systems of support that can serve as alternatives to traditional social service systems. Her work has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, State of Michigan, and Center for Victim Research. She is an award-winning researcher and mentor and has disseminated her scholarship to academic, policy, and community audiences. As an expert in

community-based, participatory research and a trained facilitator, Dr. Nwawulezi designs participatory research processes with community partners to find innovative solutions to complex social problems. She serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Family Violence* and is on the editorial board of the *Community Psychology in the Global Perspective Journal*. She is also a research and evaluation advisor to multiple systems change organizations such as the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Innovative Service, and Ujima: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community.

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### Olihe Okoro, PhD, MPH

Dr. Olihe Okoro is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy, Duluth. Olihe is a strong advocate for the integration of broader patient context and social determinants in patient care and health services delivery to optimize health outcomes. Her research therefore focuses on health disparities affecting minority and underserved populations. More specifically, her work emphasizes the importance of social determinants, provider-associated factors, and structural inequities that influence health-seeking behavior, healthcare utilization, treatment adherence and consequently health outcomes. As a social and behavioral scientist, Dr. Okoro has years of experience engaging Black/African American communities and patient populations in health education and promotion. Her research efforts

aim to investigate and address structural inequities that drive racial health disparities. Dr. Okoro's work is unique in that it seeks to understand the intersections of social determinants of health with race/ethnicity and sociocultural context, and the implications for health care and health outcomes. Her work continues to inform interventions to improve health outcomes in Black communities. Before joining the University of Minnesota, Dr. Okoro earned a PhD in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy and an MPH in social and behavioral sciences from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Okoro is currently working with the African heritage community to address COVID-19 disparities and using findings from a community-needs assessment to address long-standing inequities associated with disparities in health care and health outcomes.



### Gezzer Ortega, MD, MPH

Dr. Gezzer Ortega is an instructor of surgery and lead faculty for research and innovation for equitable surgical care at the Center for Surgery and Public Health in the Department of Surgery at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), Harvard Medical School, and adjunct faculty at the Patient Reported Outcomes, Value & Experience Center. He serves as the project director for the Provider Awareness and Cultural Dexterity Toolkit for Surgeons Trial, an NIMHD R01 project to develop and evaluate a curriculum for surgical residents to improve cross-cultural communication and engagement. Born in a low-income Brooklyn neighborhood to immigrant parents from the Dominican Republic, Dr. Ortega's work centers on improving surgical care for low-income and historically underserved populations and promoting language concordant care

for patients with limited English proficiency (LEP). Dr. Ortega is designing studies and interventions to improve language concordance for surgical patients with LEP. Dr. Ortega endeavors to diversify the academic physician workforce and was recognized as Health Provider of the Year (2020) by the Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians. He is the co-founder of the Latino Surgical Society, which supports the advancement of Latino/a/x surgeons. The National Hispanic Medical Association honored Dr. Ortega as Young Physician of the Year (2020) and he participated in the Emerging Leaders Forum for the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Ortega earned a Doctor of Medicine from Howard University College of Medicine, Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Bachelor of Science from Syracuse University.





### Emily Allen Paine, PhD

Dr. Emily Allen Paine is a T32 postdoctoral research fellow at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute. She earned a PhD in sociology with a certificate in LGBTQ/sexualities from the University of Texas at Austin in 2019. Dr. Paine takes an intersectional, mixed-methods approach to examine structural inequities shaping minority health and well-being across social contexts. She is particularly motivated to understand—and develop interventions to address—how economic marginalization, race- and gender-based oppression, and multi-level stigma drive health disparities among gender and sexual minorities. Dr. Paine serves as a member of the NYC HIV Planning Group and strives to conduct community-driven health disparities research. Currently, she is the

principal investigator of a pilot study to inform the future adaptation of an economic empowerment intervention for economically marginalized transgender and nonbinary people living with HIV or navigating HIV risk in the United States. The HIV Center Development Core funds this research. Dr. Paine also serves as a co-investigator of a study funded by the Smithers Foundation that examines barriers and facilitators to substance use treatment among sexual and gender minorities who use opioids. Another line of research focuses on stigma, discrimination, and affirmation faced by LGBTQ people within healthcare and interpersonal relationships. These studies have been supported by the National Science Foundation (Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant), Urban Ethnography Lab at the University of Texas at Austin, CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Research, and the National Institute on Aging.



### Rheanna Platt, MD, MPH

Dr. Rheanna Platt is an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is the medical director of the Latino Family Clinic at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center's Community Psychiatry Program. Initially trained in pediatrics before going into psychiatry/child psychiatry, much of her clinical and research work relate to the provision of mental health care and preventive interventions in primary care settings. She has a particular interest in promoting the mental health of immigrant parents in child-serving primary care and community settings. She is the current recipient of a K23 from the NIMH focused on detection and initial management of maternal

depressive symptoms in pediatric primary care settings serving immigrant families. In addition, she is a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, working as part of a team focused on addressing risks for depression and unmet social needs in immigrant Latina mothers. Dr. Platt graduated with a BA in biology from Brown University. She earned an MD from Mayo Medical School in 2006 and an MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2004. She completed a residency in pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2009, a residency in general psychiatry at Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute in 2011 and a fellowship in child/adolescent psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine in 2013.



### Daisy Ramírez-Ortiz, PhD, MPH

Dr. Daisy Ramírez-Ortiz is a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Epidemiology at Florida International University (FIU). In her role, she collaborates in the NIH-funded research projects Women-centered HIV Care Practices that Facilitate HIV Care Retention and Viral Suppression in the Presence of Adverse Sociocultural Factors and Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions For Improving Young Latino Sexual Minority's Success in HIV Therapy to understand barriers and facilitators influencing HIV care and treatment among racial/ethnic minorities. She is also a fellow of the NIH-funded enhanced Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse. Dr. Ramírez-Ortiz earned a PhD in epidemiology at FIU in May 2020. Much of her research work during the PhD program focused on HIV and alcohol use disparities affecting

diverse groups of Latinos (i.e., immigrants, emerging adults, farmworkers, women). Her particular research interest is in improving retention and reengagement in HIV care in Latino populations with specific attention to immigrants and migrants by developing targeted public health interventions that address the unique challenges to HIV care faced by Latinos in the United States. Her long-term goal is to become an independent researcher and leader in HIV/AIDS, minority health and health disparities research. Dr. Ramírez-Ortiz holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from University of Puerto Rico at Humacao and a Master of Public Health from University of Miami.



### Patricia Rodriguez Espinosa, PhD, MPH

Dr. Patricia Rodriguez Espinosa is an instructor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and also serves as the associate director of research for the Office of Community Engagement at Stanford University School of Medicine. The ultimate goal of her research is to decrease health inequities among racial/ethnic minority populations, particularly Latinxs and immigrant communities, through transdisciplinary and community-engaged scholarship. Her research aims to understand factors that create and maintain health inequities (e.g., racial residential segregation) and use these insights to develop novel multi-level interventions and health promotion programs to address the inequity gap and that include multi-sectoral collaborations. Dr. Rodriguez Espinosa's research has also centered around developing the science of community-based participatory research, citizen science, and other participatory research approaches. During her T32 postdoctoral

fellowship at the Stanford Prevention Research Center, she expanded her methodological expertise in mixed-methods approaches, randomized-controlled trials, and the use of novel mobile health technology for the promotion of well-being and healthy behaviors (e.g., physical activity, nutrition) among diverse and low-income populations. Dr. Rodriguez Espinosa is a native of Habana, Cuba, and a psychologist by training. She earned a PhD in clinical psychology and an MPH from the University of New Mexico. She is a previous Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellow and also completed the American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship. She is currently the co-chair elect for the Society of Behavioral Medicine Health Equity Special Interest Group.



### Elizabeth A. Rogers, MD, MAS

Dr. Elizabeth A. Rogers is an assistant professor in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Minnesota (UMN) and is a faculty member in the program in health disparities research. She is board certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics and is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. After finishing her residency training at the Harvard Brigham and Women's Hospital/Boston Children's Hospital program, she completed the primary care research fellowship at UCSF. Her Master of Applied Science in clinical research included an emphasis in implementation and dissemination science. Dr. Rogers's research focus is to design, implement, and evaluate patient-centered intervention strategies based in safety net primary care settings to improve care quality and health outcomes in patients with diabetes made complex by comorbid chronic conditions and social vulnerabilities. Her work to date has included studies of peer coach and community health worker models of care, a focus on patients with limited English proficiency, and utilization of mixed

methodology. Dr. Rogers was named the UMN CTSI's 2018 Junior Mentor of the Year, and she received the 2019 UMN Department of Medicine Women's Early Research Career Award. She is a founding board member of Minnesota Doctors for Health Equity, a state-wide non-profit with a mission of educating health professionals to work toward health equity.



### Oscar Fernando Rojas Perez, PhD

Dr. Oscar Fernando Rojas Perez is a postdoctoral associate at Yale University School of Medicine in the program for recovery and community health. He earned both a PhD and an MA in counseling psychology with an emphasis in multicultural and cross-cultural psychology from the University of Missouri. He completed his clinical internship at Yale University School of Medicine – La Clinica Hispana (Hispanic Clinic). Oscar also holds two BAs in Chicano/Latinx studies and sociology from the University of California, Irvine. Oscar has mostly studied Latinx psychological well-being, trauma, scale development, and cultural responsiveness. Recently, Oscar has grown interested in the cultural and linguistic development and adaptation of

evidence-based interventions for monolingual Spanish speaking Latinxs. Clinically, Oscar works with patients who have experienced trauma, including racial trauma, and who self-identify as immigrants, refugees, and as people of color. He provides culturally responsive care through the use of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy. Oscar was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and immigrated to the U.S. with his family when he was five years old. In his free time, Oscar enjoys traveling to California to spend quality time with his family, especially his four-year-old niece.



### Angelica C. Scanzera, OD, MPH

Dr. Angelica C. Scanzera is an assistant professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. She is also director of the Tele-Ophthalmology Service and the Contact Lens Fellowship. Dr. Scanzera earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Loyola University Chicago, an optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry, and a Master of Public Health in epidemiology at UIC. She completed her residency in primary care and ocular disease at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, IL and clinical fellowship in advanced medically necessary contact lenses at UIC. Her clinical practice focuses on specialty contact lenses to improve vision from corneal irregularities and reduce symptoms from severe ocular surface disease. Dr. Scanzera's research interest is to examine how structural factors contribute to differences in eye care access. She aims to investigate community and individual social determinants of health that

contribute to poor adherence to eye visits in a diverse urban population, to develop context-specific risk models for scheduled eye visit adherence, and to utilize the knowledge she gains to create interventions that will improve health equity in eye care access. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and Scleral Lens Education Society.



### Marie Aline Sillice, PhD

Dr. Marie Aline Sillice is a research assistant professor at the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, The City University of New York. Before coming to the school, she served as a research psychologist at Butler Hospital and assistant professor at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, in Providence, RI. She completed her postdoctoral training in cardiovascular behavioral medicine, psychosocial research, and addiction at Brown University. She earned a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Rhode Island. Her research is focused on improving intervention and prevention programs that address the reciprocal relationship between individual, social, and environmental factors in health disparity among minority populations, particularly African American/Black

women. Dr. Sillice is also interested in culturally relevant approaches and novel technology to augment participant engagement and outcome. She is currently working primarily on an NIH-sponsored project, a mobile phone app physical activity program to help Black women to adopt and maintain regular engagement in physical activity.



### Stephanie A. Torres, PhD

Dr. Stephanie A. Torres is a bridge to faculty postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Torres earned a PhD in clinical psychology from Loyola University Chicago in 2019. Prior to joining UIC, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Childhood Resilience at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Her program of research focuses on multisystemic risk and resilience factors among low-income, Latinx communities, particularly Latinx families impacted by immigration-related stress. Dr. Torres is interested in utilizing a community-based participatory research approach to develop, disseminate, and implement school- and community-based programs that promote well-being and mental health among Latinx immigrant families. Her recent work has focused on exploring the longitudinal impact of pre-migration and post-migration stressors on the mental health of Mexican immigrant families. Moreover, Dr. Torres is currently partnering with community organizations to examine family- and community-based interventions

that promote resilience in Latinx parents and youth in the face of structural stressors. Ultimately, Dr. Torres's goal is to become an independent researcher at the forefront of equity research through the development, implementation, and evaluation of interventions that empower Latinx families.



### Cindy B. Veldhuis, PhD

Dr. Cindy B. Veldhuis (pronounced Veld-hice) is an associate research scientist and research psychologist at the Columbia University School of Nursing. Broadly, her research focuses on LGBTQIA+ relationships and health as well as violence, trauma, mental health, and the impacts of sociopolitical events on wellbeing. She earned a PhD in psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and completed a master's degree (cognitive psychology) and bachelor's degree (double major: theater and psychology) at the University of Oregon. She recently completed an individual NIH/NIAAA Ruth Kirschstein Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (NIH F32AA025816) at Columbia University focused on intersectionality in the associations between relationships and hazardous drinking. She is also a current K99/R00 Pathway to Independence awardee (K99AA028049) from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Veldhuis's

K99/R00 takes a novel mixed-methods approach to examining associations between stress and alcohol use in women's same-sex relationships. In 2019 she was invited to give a talk at the United Nations on the effects of the 2016 election on LGBTQIA+ people. Dr. Veldhuis recently served on the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health COVID-19 Mental Health Measurement Task Force. Beginning in March 2020, this task force worked with existing longitudinal studies to include mental health measures to assess the impact of the pandemic on mental health. She was recently appointed co-chair of the Science Committee of the American Psychological Association's Division 44 (the LGBT psychology division) and has won multiple awards for her research, including awards from the American Psychological Association and the Research Society on Alcoholism/NIAAA.



### Carolina Villamil Grest, PhD, MSW

Dr. Carolina Villamil Grest is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work College of Public Health at Temple University. She earned a PhD in social work from the University of Southern California and an MSW from Catholic University. During her doctoral studies, Dr. Villamil Grest was a fellow supported by the Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Program. Her work is inspired by practice as a social worker in various interdisciplinary settings, where she used a trauma-informed perspective and wellness frameworks to support the needs of immigrant children, youth, and families. Her research takes a critical perspective on the cumulative forces and mechanisms that produce and maintain social and health disparities. As a prevention science scholar, she uses a community-based participatory framework, along with quantitative and qualitative methodologies, to investigate culturally grounded mechanisms of change. An ecological perspective

is applied to her examination of how structural, social and intersectional factors shape both risk and protective behaviors to inform targeted interventions addressing the effects of poverty, stress, and race-based trauma, to enhance the health and wellbeing of Latino/Hispanic youth. By expanding the baseline knowledge around internal resources specific to Latino/Hispanic communities, Dr. Villamil Grest hopes to highlight community-embedded strengths. This insight can inform the development of culturally grounded, sustainable, and targeted interventions for Latino/Hispanic youth.

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### Evan J. White, PhD

Dr. Evan J. White is an associate investigator at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research (LIBR) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is a member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and descended from the remaining federally recognized bands of Shawnees as well, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and Shawnee Tribe. He earned a PhD in clinical psychology with an emphasis in quantitative methods at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK and completed a predoctoral clinical internship at the Charleston Consortium in Charleston, SC. Dr. White's research background is in employing psychophysiology and neuroscience to understand the neural underpinnings of resilience and risk factors for psychopathology. Dr. White is currently expanding this work to functional magnetic resonance imaging and seeking to delineate the neural underpinnings

of the protective role of cultural engagement against poor mental health outcomes among American Indian populations. This line of work is supported by NIMHD through his recently funded K99/R00 project (K99MD015736; Mentors: Martin Paulus M.D., Robin Aupperle Ph.D., & John Lowe Ph.D. R.N.) "Neuroscientific Exploration of Cultural Protective Factors in American Indians." He is also gaining experience and training in community-engaged research methodologies and considerations for conducting research in indigenous populations as part of this project and his recent fellowship in the Native Children's Research Exchange (R25DA050645; PIs: Whitesell & Sarche) through the Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado, Anschutz. Dr. White is active in promoting diversity and inclusion by leading the training and fellowship subcommittee of LIBR's diversity committee.

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### Kofoworola D. A. Williams, PhD, MPH

Dr. Kofoworola D. A. Williams is an NRSA T32 postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Behavioral Intervention Technologies at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Williams earned a BS in biology and a Certificate in Global Health from Syracuse University, and an MPH, concentrating in environmental and occupational health, from Drexel University. In May 2020, Dr. Williams earned a PhD in social and behavioral sciences from the Department of Health Behavior and Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Medicine where she was also a SREB Doctoral Scholar. As a social and behavioral scientist, Dr. Williams leverages health behavior change theory to examine and address the role social, environmental, and behavioral determinants play in impacting mental health risk among minority

men. Her health disparities work also seeks to understand the influence such factors have on formal and informal mental health-related help-seeking behaviors among underserved populations. As a postdoctoral fellow in digital mental health, Dr. Williams is passionate about reducing barriers to accessing mental health resources and finding innovative and creative ways to bring resources to minority men. She works to identify the current mental health needs among Black men and investigate their preferences and acceptability for using digital tools and social media for mental health challenges, symptom management, and self-care. In future work, Dr. Williams aims to partner with Black men, utilizing user-centered design approaches and evidence-based strategies to design, test and evaluate digital mental health interventions that are culturally relevant to minority populations, useful and sustainable over time.



### Ariel A. Williamson, PhD, DBSM

Dr. Ariel A. Williamson is a clinical psychologist and assistant professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) Perelman School of Medicine. Her work leverages pediatric sleep as a modifiable factor that can promote positive development and prevent child physical and behavioral health problems. Specifically, her research focuses on (1) understanding socio-ecological determinants of pediatric sleep health disparities and (2) behavioral approaches to promote pediatric sleep health and treat sleep problems in primary care and in partnership with community organizations. She serves on the board of the Philadelphia-area Beds for Kids program, which provides beds, bedding, and sleep education for children living in impoverished homes and without an individual bed or sleep space. She is also a sleep expert for the Pediatric Sleep Council, which provides evidence-based sleep information about young children. Dr. Williamson completed her

predoctoral internship at CHOP in integrated behavioral health and earned her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Delaware. She completed her fellowship training in behavioral sleep medicine at CHOP and Penn. Her work is currently funded by an American Academy of Sleep Medicine Foundation Community Sleep Health Award, by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, and by her K23 from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.



### Hyung-Suk Yoon PhD, MPH

Dr. Hyung-Suk (Alex) Yoon is a T32 postdoctoral fellow in molecular and genetic epidemiology of cancer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and a member of the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory at Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center. His research has primarily focused on 1) investigating a disproportional burden of lung cancer among African Americans and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations and 2) developing public health strategies to reduce lung cancer disparities in the U.S. Dr. Yoon has participated in multiple population-based cohort studies and reported the associations of poor oral health, saturated fat/polyunsaturated fat intakes, and *Helicobacter pylori* infection with lung cancer risk and disparities among African Americans and low-income Americans. Dr. Yoon uses a multidisciplinary collaborative

approach, applying molecular biology and metabolomics technologies to discover the role of diet, lifestyle, and other modifiable risk factors in the etiology and prevention of lung cancer. Leveraging a large international cohort consortium and blood metabolites data, he leads a metabolomics study to investigate molecular pathways underlying adulthood weight gain/loss and lung health; this study has been approved by the NCI Consortium of Metabolomics Studies Steering Committee and will help improve our understanding of the obesity paradox in lung cancer. Dr. Yoon earned an MPH in environmental health from the Graduate School of Public Health, Seoul National University, and a PhD in molecular epidemiology from Seoul National University College of Medicine. Dr. Yoon was awarded a fellowship for Fundamental Academic Fields at Seoul National University and received the AACR-AbbVie Scholar-in-Training Award.



### Carli Zegers, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Dr. Carli Zegers is an assistant professor at the University of Kansas, School of Nursing, and an emergency department nurse practitioner at Truman Medical Center. Dr. Zegers graduated with her BS in exercise science in 2012 and BS in nursing in 2013 from Creighton University. She earned her PhD in nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2019. Dr. Zegers's research interests include health literacy and policy in underserved populations, specifically advancing health literacy through improved communication and application strategies. Dr. Zegers was the principal investigator of a grant through the Office of Minority Health that developed a pipeline program for high school students from underrepresented and underserved backgrounds into healthcare professions. In efforts to increase diversity in nursing, she founded the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) in 2015, served on the National Board of Directors for NAHN from 2018-2020, and now serves as the treasurer. Additionally, she

serves as a board member for LatinaStrong and is the treasurer for the Academy of Communication in Healthcare. During her doctoral studies, Dr. Zegers was named an American Academy of Colleges of Nursing and Johnson & Johnson Minority Faculty Training Scholar. For her policy work, she was named an American Academy of Nursing and Jonas Foundation Policy Scholar from 2019-2021. Most recently, she received the prestigious American Nurses Foundation and UnitedHealth Group Jeannine Rivet National Leadership Award.