

**Sangini S. Sheth, MD, MPH**

Dr. Sheth is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine. She graduated *cum laude* from Yale College and received her medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. During medical school, she was awarded a T32 NIH predoctoral clinical research training grant which supported her MPH degree and advanced training in epidemiology and biostatistics at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She stayed on at Johns Hopkins to complete her obstetrics and gynecology residency training. As a physician and public health scientist, she has made the focus of her career to improve the reproductive health of women from minority communities and address health disparities. She hopes to do this through the implementation and dissemination of innovative strategies to advance the prevention and treatment of gynecologic conditions. Despite the disproportionately higher burden of cervical cancer among minority and low income women, HPV vaccination is low in these groups. The poor uptake is an example of the challenges to improving health despite the availability of an effective intervention. Dr. Sheth plans to use D&I research methods to address disparities in HPV vaccine utilization. Her goal is to become an independently funded investigator to study implementation of effective strategies for delivering evidence-based practices and to advance science through a productive research career addressing women's reproductive health disparities.

**Michelle A. Silva, PsyD**

Dr. Silva is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. She is based at the Hispanic Clinic of the Connecticut Mental Health Center where she engages in multidisciplinary collaborations designed to promote health equity among vulnerable and underserved communities. Dr. Silva's work bridges practice, education, and clinical research. Through direct service and community partnerships, she gains insights into the lived experience of immigrant and refugee families, and she teaches on cross-cultural considerations to health professional students. Her research interests focus on the translation of practice into the development and dissemination of evidence-based interventions that are accessible and congruent to the needs and preferences of Latino immigrant communities. Dr. Silva is currently Project Director for a Spanish-language adaptation of the *Computer Based Training for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy* (CBT4CBT), which aims to evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of a culturally and linguistically adapted CBT4CBT program for Spanish-speaking substance users.

**Chelsea R. Singleton, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Singleton is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She earned an MPH in epidemiology from Tulane University in 2011 and a PhD in epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2015. The overarching goal of her current research is to examine how retail food environment and food policy influence food purchasing behavior, dietary intake, and chronic disease prevention in low-income minority communities. As a doctoral student, Dr. Singleton participated in an obesity research training program sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. While in the program, she researched disparities in healthy food retail in the U.S. and usage of farmers markets among participants of federal food assistance programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. In 2016, Dr. Singleton received a research fellowship grant from the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The aim of her USDA AFRI project is to use community-based participatory research methods to examine farmers market use and fresh fruit and vegetable purchasing among African Americans in Chicago who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Her work involves organizations such as the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension, the Chicago Partnership for Health Program, and LINK Up Illinois - the state's largest farmers market incentive program for SNAP participants. Moving forward, Dr. Singleton plans to study how violence and social cohesion have influenced healthy food retail in Chicago.

**Christina Tam, PhD, MSW**

Dr. Tam is a postdoctoral fellow with the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and Alcohol Research Group of the Public Health Institute. A social worker by training, Dr. Tam primarily focuses on the socioecological context of racial/ethnic disparities that contribute to behavioral and health risks among youth and young adults. In considering the sociohistorical forces and circumstances under which groups immigrated to the U.S., she is interested in understanding how immigrant and diverse neighborhoods are protective or risky for different populations. Dr. Tam's dissertation differentiated ethnic enclaves from ethnoburbs, a more recently conceptualized type of immigrant neighborhood, to examine the relationship between residence in these neighborhoods and juvenile arrest patterns among Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs). While residence in immigrant enclaves may be protective for individuals, it is currently unknown how living in an ethnoburb relates to health and social problems. Dr. Tam extends this work as a postdoc by investigating substance use behaviors among APIs. Dr. Tam's research interests stem from a range of direct practice and public service experiences in youth engagement and the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Through challenging the model minority, she has among her long-term career goals the development of a community-based intervention to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in health risks among low-resourced API subgroups who relocated more recently as refugees (such as Cambodian and Hmong populations). Dr. Tam received her BA in psychology and criminology, law and society from the University of California, Irvine and her PhD and MSW from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Sneha Thamocharan, PhD**

Dr. Thamocharan is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital. She received a BAS degree in molecular cell and developmental biology and political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, an MA degree in psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and a PhD in clinical psychology from Texas A&M University. Prior to completing her doctoral degree, she was a researcher at Texas Children's Hospital and a clinical psychology resident at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. Her research interests lie in the areas of adolescent prevention science and health services research on minority health and healthcare disparities, with a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health and substance abuse. Dr. Thamocharan is currently the principal investigator on a grant funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ; F32 HS024854). The major goal of this project is to use a mixed-methods approach to develop a culturally and gender-responsive healthcare resource to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive healthcare provided to young women of color. Selected honors include the U.S. Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Fellowship from Texas A&M University, the Women & Sex/Gender Differences Junior Investigator Travel Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and a scholarship to Increase Diversity in Nicotine and Tobacco Research from SRNT.

**Jennifer A. Vencill, PhD, LP**

Dr. Vencill is an assistant professor and licensed psychologist at the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS), a specialty unit within the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Vencill provides direct patient care for a variety of sexual and gender health concerns and also engages in patient-oriented sexuality research. Her primary research interest involves minority stress-related health disparities among sexual and gender minority populations, including how relationship factors influence health outcomes. Currently, her work is focused on the impact of relational minority stressors to adverse health outcomes within the bisexual community. Dr. Vencill sits on the editorial board of the *Journal of Positive Sexuality* and is past president of the Society for the Psychology of Women's Section on Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns. She received her PhD in counseling psychology from Texas Tech University and was the first Michael E. Metz Postdoctoral Fellow in Couples' Sexual Health at the PHS.

**Vanessa Volpe, PhD**

Dr. Volpe is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Ursinus College. She received her BS in applied psychology from New York University and her PhD in developmental psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a developmental health psychologist with specific training in quantitative psychological methods, she applies lifespan perspectives to research on the health consequences of social stress due to race-related experiences – integrating multi-level social, biological, and developmental processes that impact health disparities. More specifically, Dr. Volpe’s work focuses on protecting the health of members of the Black community by elucidating psychophysiological processes that can be disrupted to maintain optimal health in the face of interpersonal racism. She has largely employed survey research with large- and small-scale secondary data and novel pilot studies, many of which have been longitudinal. She has received small research grants for this work from the American Psychological Association and The Steve Fund. Dr. Volpe also maintains consulting and collaborative appointments with schools, communities, and organizations which seek to enhance the holistic well-being of youth of color. She serves the Society for Health Psychology and is an Adjunct Fellow at the Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives. Besides her research, she is also passionate about teaching and mentoring, and statistical approaches for intensive longitudinal data.

**Kate E. Wallis, MD, MPH**

Dr. Wallis is a fellow in developmental-behavioral pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She has long been interested in understanding disparities in the identification and care of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. She graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007 with a major in health and societies and a minor in Hispanic studies. She explored disparities in screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder for her undergraduate honors thesis. She completed medical school and simultaneously earned her master’s in public health degree from Stony Brook University School of Medicine, focusing her MPH Capstone project on the characteristics of the most frequent users of the Emergency Department. She completed a residency in pediatrics at the New York University School of Medicine. Throughout her clinical training, she was able to see firsthand how health outcomes are affected by race/ethnicity, language, literacy, income, housing stability, exposure to violence, access to high-quality education, and countless other social determinants of health. These experiences strengthened her passion for addressing these injustices. Her current research focuses on examining features of doctor-patient communication in pediatric primary care as a possible source of disparities in the identification of minority children with developmental concerns. She aims to develop a research portfolio that allows her to identify, understand, and ultimately ameliorate disparities in the care and outcomes for children with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Julius M. Wilder, MD, PhD**

Dr. Wilder obtained the first MD, PhD in medical sociology in the history of Duke University. Following medical school and graduate school, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Duke. At the end of his residency, Dr. Wilder completed a fellowship in gastroenterology and an advanced transplant hepatology fellowship at Duke. He now has a tenured tract faculty appointment in the Duke School of Medicine, the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and the Duke Department of Sociology (secondary appointment). Dr. Wilder's research and training focus on how fundamental causes of disease like race, gender, education, and wealth contribute to adverse health outcomes and health disparities in the areas of gastroenterology, hepatology, and transplant hepatology. He aspires to identify and understand these fundamental causes of disease through research in hopes of identifying mechanisms to address and circumvent these barriers to care. His desire to pursue academic medicine stems from a hope not only to provide medical care to these types of communities, but also to perform research that will help address those social conditions that adversely impact health within these communities. Dr. Wilder has numerous publications and has won numerous awards for research. He is current the Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI on multiple clinical trials in gastroenterology, hepatology, and transplant hepatology. His clinical duties include working as a gastroenterologist/hepatologist at Duke University and Duke Regional Hospitals.

**Christina Williams, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Duke University Medical Center and a Research Health Scientist at the Durham VA Medical Center. A native of Montgomery, Alabama, she obtained her BS in chemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana, MPH in epidemiology from Emory University, and PhD in nutrition epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed a two-year joint postdoctoral fellowship in health services research at Duke University and the Durham VA Medical Center. Her graduate and postdoctoral work included research related to the impact of dietary factors on disparities in risk of colorectal and prostate cancers and evaluating the extent of treatment disparities among veterans with lung cancer. As a cancer epidemiologist and health services researcher, she currently conducts epidemiologic research among patients with lung cancer to identify sources and consequences of racial disparities in healthcare delivery and outcomes. Her specific focus is to identify modifiable factors associated with disparities in curative-intent surgery for early-stage, non-small cell lung cancer and the impact on survival. She is interested in expanding her current research to combine both qualitative and quantitative methods to understand the role of patient-reported outcomes in disparate treatment and survival for patients eligible for curative cancer therapy.
