Muyibat A. Adelani, MD
Dr. Adelani is an orthopedic surgeon at Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis, Missouri. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California and her medical degree at Vanderbilt University. She completed her orthopedic surgery residency at Washington University in Saint Louis and a fellowship in joint replacement surgery at Stanford University. Her primary research interest is in racial disparities in outcomes of joint replacement. Her research program focuses on defining the impact of social context—including racial identity, socioeconomic status, social support, and community factors—on access to quality care and surgical outcomes.

Ifeyinwa Asiodu, PhD, RN, IBCLC
Dr. Asiodu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Health Care Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing. As a researcher, registered nurse, and lactation consultant, she focuses her research on the intersection of race, family dynamics, life course perspective, and breastfeeding. The long-term goals of Dr. Asiodu’s program of research are to: 1) identify and explore the impact of social determinants of health disparities during the reproductive life course on breastfeeding behavior and infant outcomes in the African American community, 2) increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates in the African American community, and 3) develop culturally-informed interventions to improve infant feeding education, resources, and support. Her current research interests include examining the relationship between breastfeeding duration, maternal stress, and infant outcomes. In addition to her academic and research roles, Dr. Asiodu has been an active Board Member of the California Breastfeeding Coalition since 2013 and participates in various committees, community-based organizations, and national organizations aimed at achieving equity in breastfeeding and childbirth. Dr. Asiodu received her BSN from UCSF and her MS and PhD from the UCSF School of Nursing and completed her postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
Mary T. Austin, MD, MPH
Dr. Austin recognized early in her career that equal access to good health and good health care did not exist, and these inequalities were not limited to developing nations but affected many infants, children, and adults within her own country. During her surgical residency, she obtained a master’s of public health from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. At that time, her research focused on allocation of organs for liver transplantation in the United States. In 2010, she joined the faculty at the McGovern Medical School as an Assistant Professor in Surgical Oncology and Pediatrics at the University of Texas (UT) MD Anderson Cancer Center and Pediatric Surgery at the McGovern Medical School at the UT Health Science Center at Houston. As a busy pediatric surgeon often caring for children with complex surgical needs, she became immediately aware that the sickest patients and their families face enormous challenges in obtaining appropriate care. It was these early career experiences coupled with her background in public health that led her to focus her academic career on addressing health disparities as they affect children with surgical problems. She enrolled in the Health Disparities certificate program at the UT School of Public Health to gain fundamental knowledge in health disparities and how best to approach this enormous problem facing so many children and their families in the nation. Her research to date has focused on identifying health disparities and developing solutions to diminish the impact of health disparities on children with surgical problems.

Loren Bauerband, PhD
Dr. Bauerband is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Missouri in the Department of Health Sciences. They recently completed their PhD in behavioral science at the University of Rhode Island. Their training focused on research methodology and multicultural issues. Their research interests include transgender health and healthcare, minority stress, and health behaviors. They also enjoy measure development, evaluation, and classification analyses. As a postdoctoral fellow, they are interested in exploring how resilience and coping styles can impact healthy lifestyles for transgender individuals. Their long-term goals are to improve provider knowledge and competency for working with transgender patients, and develop community-driven programs to empower transgender persons to engage in healthy behaviors. They plan to pursue tenure track faculty positions in public health after their fellowship. They are looking forward to networking and expanding their understanding of minority health issues at the Health Disparities Research Institute.
Teresa M. Bell, PhD
Dr. Bell holds a PhD in health outcomes and policy research from the University of Tennessee and has worked in the field of injury research for the past seven years. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine and works in the Center for Outcomes Research in Surgery. To date, her research has primarily focused on understanding long-term outcomes of pediatric, adolescent, and young adult trauma patients. Her work also examines drivers of quality of life, complications, and mortality outcomes in the trauma population and assessing the quality of trauma system care. Additionally, she has investigated the epidemiology of pediatric injuries as well as state injury prevention policies. Recently, she received funding to study patient-reported outcomes in violently injured patients and a KL2 career development award to examine opioid use after trauma in adolescent patients. Her research interests touch on a variety of areas including traumatic injury, substance use disorders, social determinants of health, health disparities, U.S. healthcare safety net financing, hospital-based violence intervention programs, and post-acute pediatric trauma care. Her expertise is in large secondary database analysis and statistical modeling of healthcare data. The analytical approaches used in her research include methodologies such as hierarchical modeling, trajectory analysis, geospatial analysis, mediation analysis, and survival analysis.

Felesia Bowen, PhD, DNP, APN
Dr. Bowen is an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University School of Nursing where she educates and mentors students in all levels of nursing. Dr. Bowen earned her BSN from Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, an MS from Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, a PhD from Columbia University, New York, NY, and a DNP from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ. Dr. Bowen began her nursing career as an Army Nurse and proudly served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Her service was recognized with several military honors. Dr. Bowen holds the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Endowed Chair in Pediatric Community Nursing and she is the Director of the Center for Urban Youth and Families, an inter-professional research center at Rutgers College of Nursing. Dr. Bowen is a nationally certified pediatric nurse practitioner and she maintains a clinical practice in urban communities. Her expertise in pediatric health care is recognized nationally. She serves on the leadership board of the NJ Chapter American Lung Association and she is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Forum on Children’s Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health. Dr. Bowen’s research interests are pediatric asthma, health inequities, pediatric oral health, and trauma. Presently she is investigating the reliability of children’s scalp hair as a measure of chronic stress in urban minority children. Findings from this study will serve as the foundation for future studies around chronic stress and asthma.
**Eduardo Bustamante, PhD**

Dr. Bustamante holds a doctorate in kinesiology, nutrition, and rehabilitation science from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2013). He completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in childhood obesity at the Augusta University, Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Prevention Institute in 2015. Currently Dr. Bustamante is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Nutrition at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Bustamante’s research focuses on generating theory-, evidence-, and community-based physical activity interventions aimed at simultaneously promoting physical and mental health among children and families in urban poor communities, where childhood obesity, chronic disease, and mental health disorder rates are high and resources available to meet needs are low. His dissertation, “Physical Activity Intervention for Children with ADHD and DBD,” was funded by a Mental Health Research Dissertation Grant to Increase Diversity (R36) from the National Institute of Mental Health. His work has been presented at national and international conferences and published in several academic journals, including *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* (MSSE) and *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. Currently, Dr. Bustamante is pursuing two lines of intervention research: 1) a pilot intergenerational lifestyle intervention for children with ADHD and Disruptive Behavior Disorders entitled BUILT: Building Unstoppable families through Intergenerational Lifestyle Transformation, and 2) implementation and evaluation of a Chicago Park District program entitled Leaders @ Play.

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**Ashley M. Butler, PhD**

Dr. Butler is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). She directs the Health Disparities Research Laboratory in Pediatric Psychology at BCM, which focuses on community-engaged research for children at risk for poor health outcomes and inadequate healthcare. Her work focuses on racial ethnic disparities in health care and health outcomes of children’s mental health, childhood obesity, and pediatric diabetes, as well as effective behavioral and psychosocial interventions. Dr. Butler is an NIH Scholar under an NIDDK K12 career development award that provides mentoring for behavioral scientists in pediatric type 1 diabetes research. She is the Principal Investigator (PI) of an NIDDK DP3 research grant to develop and pilot test a community-based behavioral intervention to improve glycemic control among African American and Latino school-aged children with type 1 diabetes. Finally, she is the PI of an institutional research award to pilot test a peer-delivered intervention for parents to prevent obesity among African American and Latino preschoolers. Dr. Butler is a member of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families of the American Psychological Association and is the current Chair. She is leading a project within this committee that focuses on translating research on racial/ethnic disparities in children’s mental health into a policy brief.
Wendy Camelo Castillo, MD, MSc, PhD
Dr. Camelo Castillo is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), where she has been a faculty member since 2017. Dr. Camelo Castillo trained as a physician at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, where she also obtained an MSc degree in physiology. Her PhD training in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill focused on pharmacoepidemiology, after which she joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the School of Pharmacy, UMB as a postdoctoral fellow in patient centered outcomes and comparative effectiveness research. Her work focuses on populations in whom evidence of best practices of care is limited such as women, youth, and minority communities. Overall the goal of her research is to inform and improve clinical and policy decision making by providing evidence of benefits or harm of interventions used in real world settings in these populations. She brings a unique perspective into this work, by integrating the patient perspective into epidemiology and health services research. Her research agenda focuses on two main topics: 1) improving methods to assess effectiveness of treatments in the context of multimorbidity, and 2) development of patient-centered methods to address health disparities in minority communities.

Rosario Costas-Muñiz, PhD
Dr. Costas-Muñiz is an assistant attending psychologist at the Immigrant Health and Cancer Disparities Service of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She is a bilingual and bicultural researcher with expertise in psycho-oncology and cancer disparities. Her research efforts have focused on examining the impact of psycho-socio-economic determinants on the health outcomes and quality of life of ethnic minority cancer patients, and the cultural adaptation of health-promotion and psychosocial interventions, with a special focus on the Latino community. Dr. Costas-Muñiz is developing a program of research that focuses on cancer prevention and early detection, intervention planning and development, and community-engaged health disparities research. The goal of her current project is to plan, develop, and implement an intervention to increase colorectal cancer screening among Mexican immigrants. Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans are a marginalized, large, growing, minority population with poor access to cancer screening services. Dr. Costas-Muñiz is a health disparities researcher who aims to develop, test, and disseminate interventions to improve early detection and quality of life outcomes, across the cancer continuum, in ethnic minority and immigrant populations.
lore m. dickey, PhD

Dr. dickey’s spark for research began when he was an undergraduate student. During his doctoral training at the University of North Dakota, his research focus shifted and his primary interest is now devoted to understanding the lived experiences of transgender and gender diverse people. Dr. dickey is the author of 17 journal articles and 15 book chapters. His publications have covered topics including support group effectiveness, sexual identity development, non-suicidal self-injury, advocacy and social justice, mental health needs, work with older adults, research practices, letter writing for medical transition, and health disparities. He is also the co-editor of the book titled *Affirmative Counseling and Psychological Practice for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Clients*. It was recently announced that this book has been selected as the Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of LGBT Issues. Dr. dickey is interested in expanding his research agenda to include a more focused exploration of health disparities for gender diverse people. Specifically, he would like to explore access to care, co-occurring mental health concerns, suicidality and suicidal ideation, and the effects of homelessness on quality of life. Dr. dickey is an Assistant Professor and Doctoral Training Director in the Department of Educational Psychology at Northern Arizona University. In his spare time, he enjoys photography, hiking, and singing.

Mylien T. Duong, PhD

Dr. Duong is a clinical child psychologist who focuses her research on eliminating racial/ethnic disparities in mental health status by increasing access to high-quality, empirically-supported behavioral health services in schools. She has been involved in the development and evaluation of a number of social-emotional and behavioral interventions for youth in school and community settings. Some examples include an indicated prevention program for middle schoolers with elevated depressive symptoms, a gender-responsive adaptation of Aggression Replacement Therapy, and a stress management curriculum for high school students. These projects have been funded by the NIH, the Institute of Education Sciences, the National Institute of Justice, and private foundations. However, the impact of this work, and of other evidence-based interventions, is limited by the slow and uneven adoption of evidence-based practices in school systems that result, at least in part, from a fragmented infrastructure for addressing student emotional and behavioral needs. The research project proposed in this application is designed to contribute to the scientific literature regarding the infrastructure of school-based mental health services, particularly as they pertain to ethnic minority students, and yield actionable system- and practice-level remedies that can serve as a basis for future research proposals. The proposal is Dr. Duong’s first foray into health services research, and the guidance and resources afforded by the Research Institute will help to ensure a successful grant application.
César G. Escobar-Viera, PhD, MD
Dr. Escobar-Viera is a postdoctoral research scholar in the Center for Research on Media, Technology, and Health/Health Policy Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. After coming to the U.S. in 2009 for a master’s degree as a Fulbright scholar, he earned a PhD in health services research from the University of Florida in 2015. Dr. Escobar-Viera graduated from medical school at the Universidad Nacional de Asuncion, in 1997, in his home country of Paraguay, where he also completed his residency and training in clinical psychiatry. His previous research experience includes a one-year NIH-funded postdoctoral position at Stanford University, in 2016. His long-term goal is to become a mental health disparities researcher with expertise in sexual and gender minorities (SGM) and Hispanic populations. Dr. Escobar-Viera’s current research focuses on understanding the impact of social media technology (e.g. Facebook, dating sites) on mental health, and more specifically, depression outcomes. He expects this work will expand what is already known about mental health disparities in these populations, providing areas to address with new evidence-based interventions. Dr. Escobar-Viera hopes his research will help move forward the field by providing a model that could be used to study other health disparities not only among SGM and Hispanics, but also among other racial and ethnic minorities.

Titilola Falasinnu, PhD
Dr. Falasinnu is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Health Research and Policy at the Stanford School of Medicine. She holds a doctoral degree in epidemiology and biostatistics from the University of British Columbia, where she was awarded the prestigious Canadian Institute of Health Research Doctoral Research Award. She is a highly skilled epidemiologist with extensive experience in sexual health research and surveillance systems in the United States, Canada, and Switzerland. She also holds a diploma in clinical epidemiology from Erasmus University in the Netherlands. Her doctoral research promoted the understanding of diagnostic decision theory as it relates to how risk prediction rules can be adopted without exacerbating health disparities among vulnerable population sub-groups. Her postdoctoral research focuses on unravelling health disparities in rheumatic diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) using population health metrics. She is particularly keen on illuminating cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk patterns and disease burden related to SLE in these comorbid conditions that disproportionately affect racial minorities. Dr. Falasinnu’s research will develop and validate methods for measuring the problem’s magnitude, identify preclinical CVD, and explicate quality of care metrics as CVD is the foremost cause of premature mortality in SLE patients. The CVD risk estimation approaches that will be developed as part of her research have the potential to influence future cost-effective prevention and treatment that efficiently integrate behavioral and biomedical approaches (or public health and health care resources) to reducing CVD burden in SLE patients.
Jessica N. Fish, PhD

Dr. Fish is a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism postdoctoral research fellow in the Population Research Center and the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. She examines the sociocultural and interpersonal factors that shape the mental and behavioral health of sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations (lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender [LGBT] people). Her recent work has focused on the prevalence, correlates, and developmental patterns of alcohol use among SGMs and the longitudinal measurement of alcohol use across subpopulations during the transition to adulthood. Her overall research goals are to: 1) identify modifiable mechanisms that contribute to SGM health disparities and 2) inform developmentally sensitive policies, programs, and prevention strategies that promote the health of SGM people and families across the life course.

Kealoha Fox, PhD

From Kunia, on the Island of Oʻahu in Hawaiʻi, Dr. Fox is Ka Pou Kākoʻo Nui Executive Manager and Special Assistant to the CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. She directs agency initiatives for Mauli Ola (Native Hawaiian Health) and the Administration’s priorities that address the social determinants of well-being among the indigenous people of Hawaiʻi. She is Principal Investigator for a funded agenda that integrates health disparities research, traditional Hawaiian medicine, and community engagement to advocate for improving the quality and longevity of life so that Native Hawaiians will enjoy healthy lifestyles and experience reduced onset of chronic diseases. As an early-career kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) scholar, Dr. Fox is guided by the proverb E lawe i ke aʻo a mālama, a e ‘oi mau ka naʻaauao. [S]he who takes his teachings and applies them increases knowledge.] Dr. Fox has been named a 2016-2017 Mellon-Hawaiʻi Doctoral Fellow and a 2016 Soroptimist International Founder Region Dissertation Fellow for her award-winning original research study “Kūkulu Ola Hou. Rebuilding Native Hawaiian Health by Reconnecting Ancestral Practices of Traditional Medicine.” Dr. Fox received her PhD in biomedical sciences from the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine specializing in clinical research. She has a master’s degree in clinical psychology and an undergraduate degree in Hawaiian/Pacific studies. When not researching, she enjoys supporting various Native Hawaiian non-profit organizations like Nā Limahana O Lonopūhā Native Hawaiian Health Consortium, ‘Aha Kāne, and Hui Mauli Ola, and spending time with her beloved ʻohana (Hawaiian family).
Anisha Gandhi, PhD, MPH
Dr. Gandhi is a Senior Analyst in Research and Evaluation in the HIV Prevention Program of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Gandhi holds an MPH in maternal and child health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at Columbia University, where she is now an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences in the Mailman School of Public Health. Over the last 10 years, Dr. Gandhi’s research has focused on identifying and addressing how structural forces such as migration and discrimination, and social environments (e.g., norms, networks, and communications) shape sexual behavior, HIV/STI vulnerability, and reproductive health outcomes, particularly among underserved and marginalized groups in the U.S. and internationally. At the New York City Department of Health, she leads and supports programs and research to promote access to HIV prevention services in New York City, particularly for women of color.

Sophia HL George, PhD
Dr. George is a full-time faculty Research Assistant Professor in the Division of Gynecological Oncology within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine and a full member of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her research interests lie in understanding the effects of inherited genetic mutations on the fallopian tube and breast epithelia and their involvement in high-grade serous and triple-negative breast cancer development. Specifically, in the laboratory Dr. George studies fallopian tube epithelia from women deemed to be at a high risk for developing breast and/or ovarian cancer – BRCA mutation carriers. Her work with others has found that the menstrual cycle (hormones), inflammation, parity, and obesity all influence the development of ovarian cancer. Dr. George is a native of the Caribbean and is part of a team of clinician-scientists who are studying the incidence of Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome genetic mutations in Afro-Caribbean nationals with the goal of understanding the etiology of disease, improving early detection of breast and ovarian cancer, and improving quality of care at diagnosis and treatment.
**Theresa A. Hastert, PhD, MPP**
Dr. Hastert is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oncology within the Wayne State University School of Medicine, and a Scientific Member in the Population Studies and Disparities Research Program at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Her research interests focus on social, economic, and behavioral factors as predictors of cancer-related health outcomes, and in racial and socioeconomic health disparities. Her current work focuses on financial hardship related to cancer and its treatments and disparities in financial hardship outcomes utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data. She is the Principal Investigator (PI) of a Mentored Research Scholar Grant through the American Cancer Society examining the economic consequences of cancer survivorship; a Co-Investigator on the Detroit Research on Cancer Survivors (Detroit ROCS) cohort study of African-American cancer survivors; a Pilot Scholar of the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research; and the PI of a qualitative research project aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the economic consequences of cancer survivorship among white and African-American survivors in Metropolitan Detroit, as well as survivors in rural areas of Michigan. Before joining the faculty at Wayne State, Dr. Hastert completed postdoctoral training in the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health at the University of Michigan. She completed her PhD in epidemiology at the University of Washington and her master of public policy degree at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and worked as a Senior Research Associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

**Christina K. Holub, PhD, MPH**
Dr. Holub focuses her research on developing prevention interventions to reduce health disparities through academic-community partnerships. In 2012, she was identified as a Pacific American Emerging Leader and invited to be a fellow of the National Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI). She was a recipient of the NIH LRP Program in the area of Health Disparities Research. Dr. Holub has a strong background in behavioral sciences, with publications in the area of cultural adaptation of self-report instruments and obesity prevention. During her postdoctoral years at San Diego State University (SDSU), Dr. Holub led the evaluation team of a physical activity randomized controlled trial among church-going Latinas, funded by the National Cancer Institute. She also managed a CDC-funded Special Interest Project in collaboration with Mexico’s National Institute of Public Health aimed at developing culturally appropriate, evidence-based recommendations for obesity prevention interventions. During her postdoctoral years at San Diego State University (SDSU), Dr. Holub led the evaluation team of a physical activity randomized controlled trial among church-going Latinas, funded by the National Cancer Institute. She also managed a CDC-funded Special Interest Project in collaboration with Mexico’s National Institute of Public Health aimed at developing culturally appropriate, evidence-based recommendations for obesity prevention interventions. Currently, Dr. Holub leads a pilot exercise study for Pacific Islanders in San Diego, CA funded by the University of California, San Diego’s Clinical and Translational Research Institute. The pilot study was informed by her previous work, the Pacific Islander Community Health (PIC Health) study, funded by the American Cancer Society, Health Disparities Program, 2013-2015. Dr. Holub is Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at California State University San Marcos. She is also affiliated with SDSU’s Institute for Behavioral and Community Health and the Zahn Innovation Platform. Dr. Holub received her MPH in chronic disease epidemiology/social and behavioral sciences from Yale University and PhD in health behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Samantha John, PhD
Dr. John is a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at the Emory School of Medicine and Emory Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center. She spends half of her time in clinical service delivery, assessing adult and geriatric patient populations, and half of her time involved in research. She earned her doctoral degree in clinical psychology with a curricular emphasis in geropsychology from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, which was followed by a clinical internship in geriatric neuropsychology from the University of California, Los Angeles Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior. Her cognitive aging focus has allowed her to pursue specialized training in longitudinal research design, advanced psychometric and statistical techniques, and engagement of underserved populations (e.g., older and rural dwelling adults). She is actively pursuing projects on the refinement of cognitive measurement to improve the early and accurate diagnosis of neurodegenerative diseases and their course. During her fellowship, she has begun to focus on health disparities in the diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s disease within African American middle-aged and older adults. Her current projects evaluate the measurement invariance of neuropsychological assessments, identify differential clinical presentations of disease across racial groups, and develop novel measures of neuropsychological function that are sensitive to cognitive change and invariant to differences in race and socioeconomic status.

Tiffani Johnson, MD, MSc
Dr. Johnson is a pediatric emergency medicine physician at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. She is a faculty member in the PolicyLab at CHOP, where she serves as a faculty lead of the health equity portfolio. Dr. Johnson is an emerging leader in racial/ethnic disparities in pediatric emergency care and research on physician implicit racial bias. Her research portfolio reflects her commitment to improving the quality of care for underserved children. Her current research is on sources of disparities in the care and outcomes of injured children, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program. She is also partnering with Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN) to investigate disparities within the multisite PECARN Registry. Dr. Johnson graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana summa cum laude with honors in biology and chemistry. She then went on to earn her medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Johnson completed her pediatric residency in 2009 in the community health track at Children’s National Medical Center. Upon completion of residency, she spent one year working as a fellow for the Emergency Medical Services for Children National Resource Center. Dr. Johnson completed her fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh in 2013. During this time, she was also a scholar in the RAND-University of Pittsburgh T32 research training program, and earned her master’s degree in clinical research with a specialization in health services research.
Shanna K. Kattari, PhD, MEd, ACS
Dr. Kattari will be joining the University of Michigan School of Social Work in the fall of 2017. Her background is as a board-certified sexologist, experienced sexuality educator, and social justice advocate. Her extant research focuses on understanding how power, privilege, and oppression systematically marginalize, exclude, and discriminate against people regarding their identities/expressions through negative attitudes, policies reinforcing oppression, oppressive actions, and isolation. Her work centers on disability and ableism, and transgender/non-binary (NB) identities and transphobia, using an intersectional lens. Her dissertation developed/validated the Ableist Microaggression Scale (AMS), and used the AMS-65 to explore the relationships between experiencing ableist microaggressions and the mental health of disabled adults. Recently, Dr. Kattari has focused on the health disparities among transgender/NB communities, across physical and behavioral health, as well as working with the community to better understand how the lack of inclusive providers has increased these disparities. Moving forward, she is interested in understanding what it means to be a trans inclusive healthcare provider, what sort of education and/or interventions would need to happen to create inclusive providers, and measuring the impact of having inclusive providers on the current health disparities in the transgender/NB community. Dr. Kattari utilizes mixed methods research and community partnerships to conduct translational research that continues to give back and support the communities which have participated. She values research that benefits the communities being researched, and strongly believes in making research accessible not only to fellow academics, but also to society at large.

Melessa Kelley, PhD, RN
Dr. Kelley is a postdoctoral fellow of the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity (INRHE) at the Florida State University College of Nursing. She is an American Indian (Keetoowah-Cherokee) and one of only 23 American Indian & Alaskan Native (AI/AN) doctoral prepared nurses within the United States. Dr. Kelley earned her PhD in nursing at the Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. Her doctoral dissertation project focused on the development and implementation of a cultural intervention for the prevention of obesity among AI/AN youth. The project utilized principles of community-based participatory research to conduct a two-condition quasi-experimental study for the prevention of obesity and associated health risks among AI/AN youth in Oklahoma. Dr. Kelley’s goal is to gain experience and develop research skills to develop and conduct culturally relevant interventions that address health disparities among minority and Indigenous populations.
Saira Khan, PhD, MPH

Dr. Khan is currently a postdoctoral research scholar in cancer prevention and control at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine. Prior to coming to Washington University, she received a PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her primary research focus is on reducing the burden of disparities in prostate cancer and on elucidating risk factors for adverse prostate cancer outcomes including recurrence and mortality. In her previous work, she investigated the association of diabetes and obesity with prostate cancer aggressiveness and progression among African American and Caucasian men in a racially diverse cohort of men from North Carolina and Louisiana. Broadly, her future goals are to continue in this research direction by examining factors that can improve prostate cancer outcomes, particularly among African American men, who are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from prostate cancer. Her ultimate goal is to become an independent researcher in cancer epidemiology.

Alana LeBrón, PhD, MS

Dr. LeBrón is an Assistant Professor of Public Health and Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She received her PhD from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, her MS in public health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and her AB in gender and women’s studies from Bowdoin College. She completed her postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Center for Institutional Diversity at the University of Michigan. Dr. LeBrón’s research focuses on the (re)production of social inequalities that shape inequities in health and opportunities for intervention to promote health equity. Much of Dr. LeBrón’s scholarship centers on the intersections of race, socioeconomic position, immigrant generation, citizenship status, and gender with health inequities, with a focus on the health of Latina/o communities. She engages a community-based participatory research approach to her research projects seeking to understand and address the structural determinants of health inequities. Her areas of research include the health equity implications of policies and ideologies pertaining to immigration, government-issued IDs, and health care and social service access and utilization.
Shir Lerman, PhD, MPH
Dr. Lerman is a postdoctoral fellow in Prevention and Control of Cancer in Implementation Science (PRACCTIS) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She earned her bachelor’s degree in anthropology and comparative religion at the University of Washington (Seattle), her master’s degree in anthropology at the University of Chicago, and both her PhD in medical anthropology and her master’s degree in public health at the University of Connecticut. She is an experienced multilingual medical anthropology and public health researcher. Her objectives include academic instruction and continued research, preferably in an interdisciplinary setting. Her priorities include translating the value of medical-anthropological approaches in biomedical settings, the role of biomedical/biological interactions in lived illness experiences, and the role of religiosity in health behavior. Research interests include diabetes, depression, diabesity syndemics, mental health and religion, obesity, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Latino/immigrant health, religious healing systems, religion, and medicine. Her current research focuses on mindfulness and mental health outcomes among underserved Latinos in the Hartford area.

Kylea Laina Liese, PhD, CNM
Dr. Liese is a medical anthropologist and practicing nurse midwife whose work is positioned at the intersection of anthropology, nursing, and public health. She is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing in the Department of Women, Children, and Family Health Sciences. She received her doctorate in anthropological sciences at Stanford University in 2009 and her midwifery degree at Yale University School of Nursing in 2012. Dr. Liese bridges her social science and clinical backgrounds through the use of mixed methodologies to investigate and address disparities in maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity nationally and internationally. Her doctoral research in Afghanistan and Tajikistan focused on social and biological determinants that predispose women in post-conflict settings to higher rates of maternal death. Currently, she is engaged in two research projects. The first examines how interpersonal and systemic racism in healthcare impact disparate rates of invasive interventions during labor and birth between immigrant and non-immigrant women in Chicago. The study goes beyond identifying biological risk factors and social determinants associated with maternal health disparities among immigrants to unearth mechanisms embedded in interpersonal- and systems-level healthcare. Dr. Liese’s second project addresses high maternal mortality in low-resource settings through the detection and evaluation of severe maternal morbidities (maternal near misses). She is piloting an eHealth application in Tanzania that facilitates how midwives and health officials respond to maternal near misses though the use of a systematic audit to identify and address preventable features.
Margee Louisias, MD, MPH

Dr. Louisias is an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Allergy-Immunology Associate Physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She is also a K12 awardee through the Child Family and Patient Centered Oriented Research Program and Allergy-Immunology Staff Physician at Children’s Hospital Boston. During her education, she developed a passion for working in underserved communities. Her initial focus was in developing countries, where she investigated determinants of prenatal care in Ethiopia, sickle-cell disease in Ghana, tuberculosis meningitis in South Africa, and gestational diabetes in HIV-positive Cameroonian women. Currently, she is focused on developing interventions to reduce disparities and improve health outcomes in low-income, underrepresented minority children with asthma. Her preliminary results suggest that the school is a feasible setting for asthma management and that there are barriers to providing adequate asthma care within the school. The goal of her current research is to develop and pilot a school-based asthma management program, entailing education and engagement of children with asthma, nursing supervision of self-administered asthma controller medications, and electronic communication between school nurses and community providers. She also has research interests in implementation/dissemination, community engagement, and the translation into policy. She received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from New York University and doctor of medicine degree from Stony Brook University School of Medicine. She is a board-certified internist, pediatrician, and allergist-immunologist. She also completed T32-funded fellowships in allergy-immunology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and pediatrics health services research at Children’s Hospital Boston and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Wenhua Lu, PhD, MS

Dr. Lu is an assistant professor in the Department of Childhood Studies at Rutgers University. She earned her MS in science journalism and PhD in health education at Texas A&M University. She also completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in social work at the Silver School of Social Work, New York University. Dr. Lu’s research centers around child and adolescent health disparities, with a focus on minority and underserved populations. In particular, Dr. Lu is interested in understanding and intervening on behavioral, psychosocial, and environmental factors that influence minority and underserved children’s health risk behaviors (e.g., unhealthy food purchase, lack of physical activity), negative health outcomes (e.g., childhood obesity), and mental health problems (e.g., adolescent depression). Dr. Lu’s research has been published in leading public health journals, including the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, and the American Journal of Health Behavior. Currently, as a junior researcher, Dr. Lu is initiating two health disparities research projects to: 1) investigate the real-time influence of food environments on adolescent food-purchase decision-making in different neighborhoods, and 2) examine factors underlying unmet mental health service needs among Asian American adolescents with mental health problems. In addition to research, Dr. Lu also advises PhD students and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in child health disparities and quantitative research methods.
Katherine T. Mills, PhD, MSPH
Dr. Mills is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Her primary research interests are in modifiable risk factors, dissemination and implementation research, and health disparities in hypertension and chronic kidney disease. She has an ongoing clinical trial assessing the impact of dietary sodium reduction on proteinuria in chronic kidney disease patients with proteinuria. She also works on several studies focused on implementing proven effective strategies for hypertension control in underserved populations and low-resource clinic settings. She is interested in expanding more into health disparities research as it relates to hypertension treatment and control and chronic kidney disease. Dr. Mills received her undergraduate degree from Colorado College in chemistry and her MSPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in epidemiology focusing on cardiovascular disease. Afterwards she worked as the State Obesity Epidemiologist for the Georgia Department of Community Health. She earned her PhD from Tulane University in epidemiology in 2014 and completed postdoctoral training in cardiovascular disease epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health before joining faculty at Tulane in 2016. She lives in New Orleans with her husband and two-year-old son.

Samantha D. Minc, MD, FACS
Dr. Minc is an Assistant Professor of Surgery and vascular surgeon at the West Virginia University Heart and Vascular Institute in Morgantown, WV. She completed her fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Chicago, her general surgery residency at the Yale-New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael Campus, and obtained her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Minc most recently earned a certificate in Research in Health Disparities at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is continuing her work there to earn a master’s of public health. Dr. Minc’s research focus is in health disparities research, particularly as it pertains to disparities in amputation rates for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) and diabetes. Dr. Minc studies both race-related and rural-related disparities by investigating the effects of socio-demographic and comorbidity related risk factors on the development of PAD and rates of amputations. Dr. Minc’s long-term goal is to create a community-based intervention that will allow vascular surgeons to collaborate with community providers and patients to provide education, coordinate care, and empower communities to reduce amputation rates and decrease disparities.
Oladunni Oluwoye, PhD, MS, CHES
Dr. Oluwoye received a BS in psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, an MS in clinical psychology from Alabama A&M University, and a PhD in health education from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Oluwoye began her postdoctoral training in July 2016 at Washington State University in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and the Initiative of Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH). Dr. Oluwoye's previous research has focused on substance use among Black/African American youth and young adults. She currently works on two NIH-funded randomized clinical trials developing and testing the effectiveness of behavioral treatments for alcohol use disorders in two populations who experience alcohol-related disparities: adults with co-occurring serious mental illness and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Dr. Oluwoye's current interest focuses on co-occurring substance use disorders and serious mental illness and racial and ethnic disparities in mental health care particularly among Black/African Americans. Through this work her hope is to advance the availability, acceptability, and effectiveness of mental health care in minority populations, thus increasing equities within the mental health care system that will reduce treatment delays and improve the pathways to care.

Abhishek Pandey, MD
Dr. Pandey is a physician-scientist at the University of Arizona and Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System. The core objective of his investigations is to develop, implement, and apply evidence-based multi-level interventions targeted at sleep disorders in at-risk populations especially grandmothers raising grandchildren.
Linda S. Park, PhD, MSSW, MSB

Dr. Park received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison and is a Research Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health working on multiple federally funded grant projects. One of her goals is to examine the relationship between cultural determinants of health and health literacy to improve health outcomes and make sustainable change in closing the disparity in incidence and care quality of chronic health illnesses between English-proficient and limited English-proficient (LEP) populations. Dr. Park’s commitment to developing a program of health disparities research is inspired by her longstanding work advocating for marginalized and disadvantaged populations. Her passion to reduce health disparities for vulnerable populations, particularly for aging LEP immigrants and refugees, arises from both personal and professional experiences. Dr. Park’s teaching focuses on social and racial justice, highlighting immigrant and refugee positions within our binary racial discourse. Dr. Park’s latest publication in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* (2017) introduces the concept of cultural literacy to healthcare providers working with LEP patients. Within the Gerontological Society of America, Dr. Park is the outgoing Communications Chair for the Emerging Scholars and Professional Organizations and is now a Co-Convener for the Korean/Korean American Interest Group. Dr. Park holds two master’s degrees (social work and business). Selected honors include multiple mentoring awards for undergraduate and graduate students along with an Honored Instructor Award. She is a UW Advanced Opportunity Fellow and has received dissertation fellowships from the UW and Queens College, The City University of New York.

Allison Parsons, PhD

Dr. Parsons is interested in the impact of systemic inequity on the health and well-being of children and families. She believes that issues of inequity are complex and multidimensional and cannot be solved in isolation. She further believes that improving the health and well-being of children and families depends upon collaboration across sectors and communities to develop relevant and actionable goals that will positively shift community outcomes. Engaging community members is crucial in gaining an understanding of both the barriers and the resources available to children and families. She completed her PhD in public health with a focus on social determinants of health and health disparities at the University of South Carolina. She is currently completing her third year as a National Research Service Award postdoctoral fellow at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. She has expertise in qualitative methods including in-depth interviews, focus groups, and ethnography, and she is currently engaged in community-based participatory research in the neighborhood of Price Hill in Cincinnati, Ohio.
Elena Portacolone, PhD, MPH, MBA
Dr. Portacolone is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Institute for Health and Aging at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), a Pepper Center Scholar at the Division of Geriatric Medicine at UCSF, and a Butler-Williams Alumna at the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Portacolone completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Turin, Italy. After working in the corporate sector in the United Kingdom, she completed an MPH degree at the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, an MBA degree at the Haas Business at UC Berkeley, and a PhD in sociology in the Department of Social and Behavioral Science at UCSF. In 2015 Dr. Portacolone was awarded a K01 from the National Institute on Aging and a New Investigator Grant Award from the Alzheimer’s Association to better understand the needs of an ethnical/racial diverse sample of older Americans living alone with cognitive impairment. One aim of this investigation is to advance the area of health disparities in cognitive impairment, an area where knowledge is extremely limited.

Stephanie, C. Rainie, DrPH, MPH (Ahtna Athabascan)
Dr. Rainie (Ahtna Athabascan) is Assistant Professor of Public Health, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy (UC); Associate Director and Manager, Tribal Health Program for the Native Nations Institute in the UC; Assistant Professor in the Public Health Policy and Management Program at the Community, Environment and Policy Department, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH); and Assistant Director for the Center for Indigenous Environmental Health Research, MEZCOH at the University of Arizona (UA). Dr. Rainie’s research explores the links between governance, health care, the environment, and community wellness. She also functions as the UC’s liaison to the university’s Human Subjects Protection Program, monitoring implementation of the guidelines in UC research projects and participating in broader UA discussions of ethical collaborations with indigenous peoples and communities. Dr. Rainie co-founded the U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network and is a founding member of the International Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network. She was also a founding member of the UA’s American Indian and Indigenous Health Alliance Club at MEZCOPH, working to support the recruitment and retention of indigenous students and faculty at the UA. She is on the faculty advisory board for the UA’s Center for Digital Society and Data Studies. Dr. Rainie received her AB from Cornell University and MPH and DrPH from MEZCOPH.
Brita Roy, MD, MPH, MHS

Dr. Roy is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the section of General Internal Medicine and the Director of Population Health for Yale School of Medicine. Her scholarly work focuses on assessing the relative contribution of positive social and psychosocial factors (i.e., health assets) at the individual and community level to health outcomes and health disparities, as well as the interdependence of these determinants and interactions with the physical environment. Research in advancing medical education is a secondary focus of hers. Dr. Roy is also interested in the development of multi-disciplinary community-healthcare collaborations to support population health and well-being. Dr. Roy received a bachelor’s in engineering from Vanderbilt University, followed by a master’s in engineering from Wayne State University. She then completed a combined MD/MPH at the University of Michigan before completing a residency and chief residency in internal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Roy was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at Yale University from 2013-2015.

Richard Sadler, PhD

Dr. Sadler is a Flint, Michigan native and urban geographer with expertise in environmental science, GIS, food systems planning, and land use policy in shrinking/legacy cities. He earned his PhD in the Human Environments Analysis Lab at the University of Western Ontario, one of Canada’s foremost health and the built environment labs. His experiences growing up in the Flint region—where industrial growth and subsequent deindustrialization have had a profound influence on the built form—shaped his drive to resolve inequalities that arise from imbalances between the salutogenic and pathogenic properties of urban areas. Dr. Sadler’s research interests reflect this concern, and include an integration of urban planning and public health topics related to neighborhood/built environmental effects on health. Some such topics include local food systems, urban agriculture, access to healthy food, urban disorder, blight elimination, drug and alcohol abuse, residential segregation, and active travel. Methodologically, he combines spatial analysis and community-based participatory research approaches to address challenges in the urban environment. Underpinning his work lies experiential training in cultural competence and a recognition of historical processes of discrimination which have exacerbated spatial and health inequalities. Throughout his work, his overarching goal is to strengthen the understanding between the built environment and health behaviors/outcomes with the goal of shaping land use policy to build healthier cities.
Marimer Santiago-Rivas, PhD, MA
Dr. Santiago-Rivas moved to New York from Providence, RI. She studied psychology at the University of Puerto Rico (BA) and the University of Rhode Island (MA and PhD), and proceeded to obtain a postdoctoral position in a fast, research-focused environment at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. With her passion about health promotion and urban life, her move to New York was a natural fit. With encouragement from her mentors, Dr. Santiago-Rivas developed a research program in health disparities and cancer prevention in minorities. She is currently funded by a postdoctoral fellowship from the American Cancer Society and a small grant (R03) from the National Cancer Institute. In her free time, she loves to run, play with her two beagles, and bike for miles with her husband. She lives in Rockland County, NY, the southernmost county on the west side of the beautiful Hudson River.

Hudson Santos, PhD, RN
Dr. Santos is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing. He is an expert in women’s mental health, symptom science, and bio-behavioral methods. His research is focused on understanding the complex mechanisms that create vulnerability in minority mothers, especially Latinas, to develop perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. His goal is to design naturalistic and low-cost interventions that address perinatal mental health disparities and related infant outcomes. To accomplish this, Dr. Santos concentrates in three areas: 1) configurations and variations of depressive and anxiety symptoms throughout pregnancy and over the first few postpartum years, 2) the bio-behavioral mechanisms of maternal and paternal depressive and anxiety symptoms, and 3) naturalistic and low-cost interventions to promote mental health wellness in minority families. In the long term, this work can contribute to the improvement of minority family relationships and infant outcomes and thus help to mitigate mental health disparities across generations.
Melody Schiaffino, PhD, MPH

Dr. Schiaffino is a bilingual, bi-cultural health services and disparities researcher with a focus on social determinants and context in the quality of healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. Areas she has studied include: race, ethnicity, language access, cancer, persons with disabilities, survey methods, social networks, and cultural competence. An immediate goal is to continue building capacity to improve survival gains for vulnerable populations (e.g., racial ethnic minorities, the elderly, persons with limited English proficiency, etc.), especially among minority elders and those with multiple co-morbidities. Her dissertation methods (2014) formed the foundation of her research interests that integrate organizational theory, geographic information systems (GIS), and quality to develop multi-disciplinary approaches to study outcomes in the context of organizational care with an emphasis on precision. Her work in assessing the need for language services in hospitals led her to develop a more precise geographic measure that resulted in a first author manuscript in Health Affairs and an invited talk at a recent (September 2016) NIH briefing on Health Disparities and Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities Initiative. This work uses methodological approaches that are multi-level and center on vulnerable populations. As part of current pilot work using big data and network approaches to visualize cancer outcomes, she is making a shift toward clinical quality outcomes at the intersection of minority populations, quality of care delivery, and cancer survival. Dr. Schiaffino’s work is informed by cross-disciplinary theories including organizational, network, and geography as well as systems science. Her work has been published in high-impact journals including Health Affairs and The Journal of Infectious Diseases. She is interested in collaborations both nationally and internationally; some organizations include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Universidad Autónoma de México, and Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública. Dr. Schiaffino is also an Associate Member of Moores Cancer Center at the University of California, San Diego and a visiting researcher in radiation oncology in Dr. Murphy’s lab.

Megan Johnson Shen, PhD

Dr. Shen is formally trained as a social and experimental psychologist, with specialized training in patient-provider communication. She is currently Assistant Professor of Psychology in Medicine at the Center for Research on End-of-Life Care at Weill Cornell Medicine. Broadly, her research focuses on understanding and improving provider-patient communication within oncology and critical care settings. Specifically, her research has examined how aspects such as culture, religion, stigma, and other social psychological concepts influence communication and decision-making regarding end-of-life care. Some of her current research is focused on developing social psychological and communication-based interventions designed to improve engagement in advance care planning (ACP) and end-of-life care communication and care outcomes among minority patients, including African American and Latino cancer patients. As a recent recipient of a K07 award, she plans to build her research in intervention development to improve engagement in ACP and end-of-life communication and care outcomes among Latino advanced cancer patients. Her research aims to improve end-of-life care outcomes and reduce health disparities among underserved minority populations through the development and dissemination of social psychological interventions.
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 Thamotharan, PhD

Dr. Thamotharan 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. Thamotharan 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.