



# TRUTH TO POWER

the  
41st

## MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE



Exercising Political Voice to Achieve Health Equity

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

WILLIAM AND IDA FRIDAY CENTER  
100 FRIDAY CENTER DRIVE  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27517

UNC

GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

**MSC**  
MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS



# WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR TODAY?



Questions for our Keynote Speakers?  
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below to submit questions.  
<http://go.unc.edu/KeynoteQA>



Exercising Political Voice to  
Achieve Health Equity

# TRUTH TO POWER



## THE 41ST ANNUAL MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE HISTORY ..... 4



MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS ..... 6

MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS STATEMENT ON SILENT SAM ..... 7

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ENDORSEMENT ..... 9



2020 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS WELCOME ..... 10

22nd ANNUAL WILLIAM T. SMALL, JR. KEYNOTE LECTURE WEBCAST ..... 12



WILLIAM & IDA FRIDAY CENTER MAP ..... 13

CONFERENCE AGENDA ..... 14



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ..... 16

GUEST SPEAKERS ..... 18



MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE ..... 19

BREAKOUT SESSIONS OVERVIEW ..... 20



BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES ..... 22

POSTERS ..... 40



2020 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS ..... 42

NOTES ..... 44



## CONFERENCE HISTORY

When the Minority Health Conference conference was established in 1977 by the Black Student Caucus (now Minority Student Caucus), its major objectives were to highlight the health issues of concern among people of color, and it has been broadened since to be inclusive of other minority populations. Initially the conference was held in UNC Gillings' Rosenau Auditorium, but when conference attendance increased to 300 to 400 during the 1990s, the conference moved to the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center. Thousands of UNC students and advisors have contributed to the planning of the 41 conferences. Three pillars of the conference, Dr. Bill C. Jenkins, Dean William T. Small Jr. and Dr. Victor J. Schoenbach, are honored for their significant contributions.



In 1977, **Dr. Bill C. Jenkins**, a UNC student at the time, led the Black Student Caucus to found the conference. Dr. Jenkins was an extraordinary leader in public health, a lifelong advocate for addressing racism and eliminating health disparities and an enthusiast in building the ranks of ethnic minorities in biostatistics and epidemiology. Among his many accolades and groundbreaking work in public health, Dr. Jenkins served

as Manager of Minority Health Activities in the Office of the Director and Manager of the Tuskegee Participants Health Benefits Program, which assured medical services to the survivors of the Tuskegee Study. While working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Jenkins was one of the first public health scientists to investigate HIV/AIDS in African Americans and served as Manager of the CDC's National Minority Organizations HIV Prevention Program. Dr. Jenkins founded Morehouse College's Public Health Sciences Institute which, together with another program he founded, Project IMHOTEP, has been a source for recruiting underrepresented minorities to the public health profession. He later returned to Chapel Hill as a Senior Scholar at the UNC Institute of African American Research and then adjunct professor in the UNC Department of Epidemiology.

His passing last year was especially poignant for many at the Gillings School, given its proximity to the School's 40th-anniversary Minority Health Conference. To honor his legacy and to ensure that his vision for the conference endures, the 41st Minority Health Conference, and conferences hereafter, will begin with the "Bill C. Jenkins Welcome Remarks."

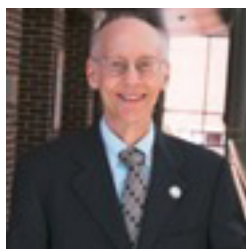
Read more about our inspiring leaders at <https://go.unc.edu/BillJenkins>, <https://go.unc.edu/BillSmall>, and <https://go.unc.edu/VictorSchoenbach>



# CONFERENCE HISTORY



In 1971 **William T. Small Jr.** came to the UNC School of Public Health as Coordinator of Minority Affairs with the charge to increase minority student enrollment in the school's graduate programs. He later became Assistant Dean for Students and then Associate Dean for Students. For over a quarter of a century, Dean Small worked on behalf of public health students as well as faculty, staff and administrators. Students involved in the conference's early years describe how Dean Small pulled the Conference together – identifying people, shepherding Conference activities and gathering feedback. Each year, a new group of students would organize a successful conference, and Dean Small was a constant force that made that possible. A member of the 1991 Conference Planning Committee recounted, "Bill Small's diverse and masterful contributions ... his advice, experience, judgment and commitment — as well as large amounts of his time and energy — were indispensable to the Conference's success. The Dean's Office could not have been represented more effectively, diplomatically and graciously." Dean William Roper named the Keynote Lecture after William T. Small Jr. in 1999, the same year of his retirement from UNC.



In 1980, **Dr. Victor J. Schoenbach** joined the UNC Gillings faculty in the department of Epidemiology. From 1998 to 2018, he led the UNC School of Public Health Minority Health Project, which presents interactive broadcasts on health equity topics and works with the Minority Student Caucus on its annual Minority Health Conference and webcast. In 2004, Dr. Schoenbach worked with then Assistant Dean Small to revive the Minority Health Conference after a two-year hiatus and continued to work with the conference planning committee until his retirement. Dr. Schoenbach also served as a faculty advisor to the Minority Student Caucus from 2004 to 2018, and he helped to initiate the interactive Keynote Lecture broadcast and the partner conferences. He continues to maintain websites for the Minority Student Caucus and the Minority Health Conference. From 2014 to 2017, Dr. Schoenbach taught a seminar with Bill Jenkins on social justice in public health and created a "virtual library" on the history of minority health activities at UNC in conjunction with the course. In 2012, the Minority Health Conference's afternoon keynote lecture was named the "1st Annual Victor J. Schoenbach Health Disparities Keynote Lecture" in recognition of Dr. Schoenbach's commitment to minority health in the community.

The Minority Health Conference is eternally grateful for the leadership and unwavering service of Dr. Jenkins, Dean Small and Dr. Schoenbach to advancing the health of marginalized people and eliminating health inequities and racial injustices, work embedded in the mission of the Minority Student Caucus and the conference. The Minority Student Caucus is honored that the names of these champions of health equity are woven into the history and legacy of the caucus and conference.





# MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS

The Minority Student Caucus (MSC) was founded in 1971 by a group of Black students at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. The founding members of the Caucus created this organization to increase the attention given to health disparities while also advocating for recruitment, support and retention for Black students and faculty at the School. In 1976, the organization changed its name to Minority Student Caucus and expanded its mission.

Today, the Minority Student Caucus consists of all students of color at Gillings who wish to join and anyone else who is interested in supporting the Caucus' mission. Since its founding, MSC has been charged with bringing the concerns of people of color to the attention of the school's administration and for working to attract and retain more students and faculty of color to the School. Further, the Minority Student Caucus promotes research, policies and programs aimed at addressing public health issues that affect people of color.

The Minority Student Caucus founded the Minority Health Conference (MHC) in 1977 and has conducted it annually since then. This year, the Caucus has worked to speak truth to power and take action on the issues important to people of color at Gillings in order to expand its impact. The Caucus works with the Gillings community on all levels to advocate for the needs of students of color by developing strategic partnerships and advocating for change. As a member of the Dean's Council at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, MSC is able to have meaningful dialogue with various members of the School's administration in advocating for the needs of students of color. To accomplish the initiatives of increasing and promoting racial and health equity, the primary goals for MSC are the following:

- To increase recruitment, intake and retention of students and faculty of color
- To ensure the employment of an antiracism focus in the Gillings curriculum
- To develop strategic partnerships across campus and in the community
- To create sustained mechanisms and resources that provide support to students of color

The Minority Student Caucus welcomes you to our 41st Minority Health Conference and we hope you will join us in speaking truth to power as we work to achieve racial and health equity.

## MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS NETWORKING



Minority Student Caucus current students and alumni are invited to the MSC Networking Space in the Windflower Room.



# MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS STATEMENT ON SILENT SAM

On behalf of the members of the Minority Student Caucus at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill and our collective pursuit for justice, we applaud the decision made on February 12, 2020 by Judge Allen Baddour to void the UNC Board of Governors' decision to give \$2.5 million to the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) to preserve and display the Confederate monument known as Silent Sam.

SCV is a neo-confederate, white supremacist group that distorts American history. SCV is known for championing an inaccurate narrative around the Civil War, erecting Confederate monuments across the South and supporting political candidates who support their ideology and agenda. Silent Sam is a confederate monument that stood as a symbol of racism and white supremacy on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill in honor of the white soldiers who fought to preserve the enslavement and exploitation of Black people for white financial gain. This settlement created anger, anxiety, bitterness and pain across this campus community, and Baddour's decision to void the settlement is cause for celebration. This further highlights the collective power of our campus community when confronted with injustice.

As public health students, we recognize that mental health, wellbeing, sense of belonging and safety are powerfully driven by the social and physical environments in which people live, learn, work and play. Exposure to racism decreases life expectancy and increases the likelihood and severity of chronic diseases. We acknowledge that structural racism, more than interpersonal racism, is an overarching determinant of health. Structural racism continues to perpetuate racial inequities through housing, education, employment, wealth attainment, media, healthcare and criminal justice systems. In turn, these systems reinforce a status quo that protects and elevates white violence, dominance and privilege by dehumanizing people of color. By initially submitting to the will of this hate group, the Board of Governors has also encouraged racial persecution and demonstrated that they do not value the Black members of this campus community, placing us at risk for both seen and unseen harms. Our blood lives in the soil that this University was built on, and we will continue to fight for our right to be safe and seen on this campus.

We also applaud Chancellor Guskiewicz's \$5 million initiative toward the History, Race and a Way Forward Commission and call for the university to redirect the \$2.5 million earmarked for the settlement towards this effort. These funds should be used to enhance The Sonja Hanes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, support additional diversity centers on campus, pay for the legal fees for students associated with the 2018 protests and provide scholarships for Black students at UNC-Chapel Hill. We demand that UNC-Chapel Hill create pathways for increased representation of Black students, faculty, staff and administrative leaders. We demand that increased funds be dedicated to specific institutional initiatives that will identify and address



# MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS STATEMENT ON SILENT SAM

the needs of people of color within the Carolina community to ensure the retention of Black brilliance.

Lastly, we strongly oppose any effort to resurrect Silent Sam on any UNC campus. The Board of Governors has an opportunity to do right by the Black members of this campus community and address this matter with transparency and integrity as we move forward. Our alumni, state, peer institutions and country are watching.

Respectfully,  
The Minority Student Caucus Executive Board 2019-2020  
*UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health*







# AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ENDORSEMENT



January 16, 2020

Dear UNC Minority Health Conference Participants:

On behalf of more than 50,000 members and affiliate members, the American Public Health Association extends warmest wishes to the Minority Student Caucus at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health on another successful year coordinating the annual Minority Health Conference.

Congratulations to the Minority Student Caucus, Minority Health Conference Co-chairs, planning committee, advisors and impassioned student leaders involved in organizing the 41st annual Minority Health Conference. Our values at APHA are an extension of our members' beliefs and include science and evidence-based decision making, prevention and wellness, community and health equity—all of which are reflected in the work of the Minority Health Conference. As the primary voice for public health advocacy, APHA works with key decision makers to shape public policy to address today's ongoing public health concerns. For these reasons, APHA proudly endorses this year's Minority Health Conference.

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health is a tier-one research institution and the involvement of students is what makes Gillings great. The Minority Health Conference perfectly encapsulates the institution's dedication to its students. As the oldest student-led health conference in the nation, the Minority Health Conference continues to bring salient public health topics to a community of students, researchers and practitioners. This year's theme, "Truth to Power: Exercising Political Voice to Achieve Health Equity," is both timely and invaluable to everyone in the field of Public Health. I hope you will be able to gain valuable tools and information to help create healthier communities inclusive of all persons.

Congratulations again to all the hard-working students and supporters of the Minority Student Caucus and the Minority Health Conference!

Sincerely,

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director



# 2020 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS WELCOME

Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the Minority Student Caucus, the Minority Health Conference Planning Committee and the Gillings School of Global Public Health, we welcome you to the 41st Annual Minority Health Conference.

In 1971, the Minority Student Caucus was established to draw attention to health inequities and the lack of representation of students and faculty of color here at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Nearly every year since 1977, we have convened thousands of community members, professionals and students to explore a diverse range of topics that have an impact on minority health. Together, we connect multidisciplinary champions working at the local, regional, national and global levels—and inform communities everywhere.

This year's theme—Truth to Power: Exercising Political Voice to Achieve Health Equity—will focus on the tools and approaches we need to uplift marginalized voices, embolden effective leadership and create policy that is community-driven and grounded in equity.

Health is undoubtedly shaped by the conditions that we live in, and these conditions are written, upheld and governed by the policies, systems and institutions that construct our daily lives. We live in a time when our society is exhaustively polarized, political ideologies are divisive and elections can have generation-defining outcomes. These outcomes disproportionately affect people of color and marginalized groups, thereby widening existing health inequities. As we move into a critical election year, we hope this conference ignites dialogue and encourages strategic action towards a more equitable and community-centered approach to shaping our policy processes.

We would like to recognize the work that our outstanding Leadership Team and Planning Committee have done in preparation for the conference. Planning a high-quality conference of this magnitude is no easy task, especially while being a student. We are also appreciative of our new and long-standing conference sponsors that have supported and ensured a sustainable conference from year to year.

We would like to thank Dean Barbara K. Rimer and the Dean's Office at the Gillings School of Global Public Health for their continued support. To our advisors: Charletta Sims Evans, Kauline Cipriani, Chandra Caldwell, Trinnette Cooper, Sara Wajda and Cherelle Whitfield, we are eternally grateful for your guidance and unwavering support as we navigated the planning process. We want to give a huge thank you to the Minority Student Caucus Co-Presidents, Hailey Mason



# 2020 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS WELCOME

and Deanie Anyangwe, for their deep commitment to the mission of the caucus, steadfast leadership and dedicated support.

In addition, many thanks to the team at the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, O.J. McGhee, Elizabeth French, Matthew Chamberlain and the entire Gillings Communications team. Without their help, the logistics and sustainability of this conference would not be possible.

Finally, to the conference attendees, breakout session speakers, exhibitors and poster presenters, we are thankful for your support and enthusiasm towards the conference's vision. Your passion for and commitment to racial justice and health equity is an indispensable factor in the success and sustainability of the conference.

With gratitude,

**Rakiah Anderson**

Department of Health Behavior  
Conference Co-Chair  
Minority Health Conference

**Ishani Patel**

Department of Maternal and Child Health  
Conference Co-Chair  
Minority Health Conference

## FIRST AMENDMENT STATEMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY

All sponsored speaking engagements at the University fall under the protection of free speech laws and policies. The University is governed by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, the North Carolina Restore Free Speech Act, enacted by the General Assembly in 2017, and the campus Facilities Use Policy. Additionally, providing a free speech forum for a range of ideas is part of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's commitment to inclusion.

We would like to remind everyone attending the conference to please remain respectful of fellow attendees and our speakers. Individuals who disrupt the event by interfering with the protected rights of attendees or speakers will be asked to leave.



# 22ND ANNUAL WILLIAM T. SMALL, JR. KEYNOTE LECTURE WEBCAST

We would like to extend a special welcome to our partner conferences participating in the William T. Small, Jr. Keynote Lecture Webcast. Partners have organized local events or conferences in conjunction with our conference. We are thrilled to have these additional student and community groups join the conference as joining together reinforces and extends our collective ability to speak truth to power to advocate for change in our communities.

## PARTNER CONFERENCES

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
**RACISM  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
& HEALTH**

**UCLA** Fielding  
School of Public Health



**BROWN**  
School of Public Health

**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
*Protecting You and Your Environment*

## Webcast Moderator: Laura Dugom

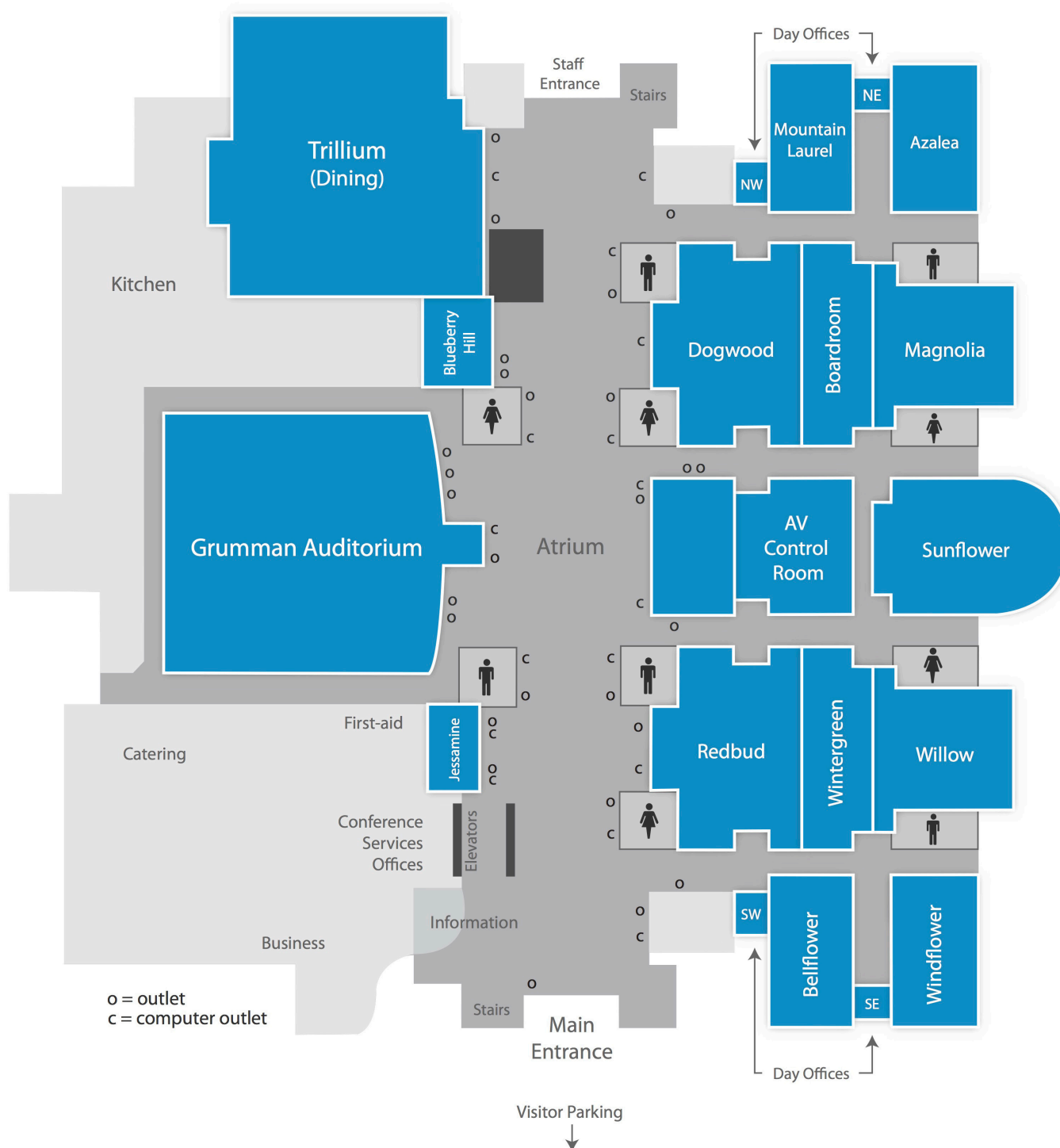


Laura Dugom is a MPH Candidate at the Gillings School of Global Public Health enrolled in the Leadership in Practice concentration. She graduated from Meredith College in 2016 earning a degree in Biology, but Laura's undergraduate research in maternal and child health as well as several internships motivated her to pursue a graduate degree in public health.

Laura currently works at the Duke Clinical Research Institute in stakeholder engagement, patient advocacy in clinical research and trial management. Laura is pursuing research projects focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and health literacy in the aging population as it relates to clinical trials. After graduation in May, she plans to continue to translate the skills she learned at Gillings into her career. She is also a member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and will contribute as a genomics abstract reviewer for 2020. Laura is excited about where her MPH from Gillings will take her after graduation, but she says she is even more excited to work alongside all of the innovative thinkers at the MHC and the organizations they represent.



# WILLIAM & IDA FRIDAY CENTER MAP



A gender nonspecific restroom is located on the second floor.





# CONFERENCE AGENDA (MORNING SESSIONS)

**7:30 AM**

REGISTRATION

**9:00 AM**

**BILL C. JENKINS WELCOME REMARKS**

Ryan Dial-Stanley, MSC Co-Presidents, Conference Co-Chairs,  
Dean Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH, and Kauline Cipriani, PhD  
Grumman Auditorium (Overflow Room: Dogwood)

**9:40 AM**

**22nd WILLIAM T. SMALL, JR. KEYNOTE:  
LATOSHA BROWN**

Grumman Auditorium (Overflow Room: Dogwood)

**11:00 AM**

**EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**

Exhibitors: Atrium  
Posters: Willow Lounge

**11:45 AM**

**MORNING CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Environmental and Climate Justice: The Battle Against  
Environmental Racism (**Location: Sunflower**)

Story Sharing as Community Engagement: The MI-PHOTOS Project  
(**Location: Dogwood**)

Leading with Lived Experience: Community Stakeholders and  
Researchers Partnering to Address Neighborhood Influences on  
Health (**Location: Redbud**)

Real Talk: Language Inaccess in our Health Systems, Grassroots  
Organizing for Language Justice (**Location: Azalea**)

Successful Transition Back to the Community and Healthcare  
after Release from Incarceration: Peer Support by Community  
Health Workers in the Formerly Incarcerated Transition Program  
(**Location: Mt. Laurel**)



# CONFERENCE AGENDA (AFTERNOON SESSIONS)

**12:45 PM**

LUNCH

**1:45 PM**

9th ANNUAL VICTOR J. SCHOENBACH KEYNOTE:  
DR. ABDUL EL-SAYED

Introduction by Conference Co-Chairs and Hannah Drake  
Grumman Auditorium (Overflow Room: Dogwood)

**3:15 PM**

EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS

Exhibitors: Atrium  
Posters: Willow Lounge

**4:00 PM**

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Academia, Dissemination & Policy (Location: Mt. Laurel)

Our Sisters' Keeper: An Open Dialogue About Black Womxn's  
Health (Location: Dogwood)

Equity is the Price of Admission: Racial Equity Through Leading  
With and For People with Lived Experience (Location: Sunflower)

Mano Amiga: People Helping People (Location: Redbud)

Asthma and Healthy Homes: Addressing the Health Equity Gap in  
Orange County, North Carolina, through Multi-Sector Partnerships  
(Location: Azalea)

Use #MHC2020 on Social Media!



@MHC\_UNC



@mhc\_unc



@UNCMinorityHealth



# MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## LATOSHA BROWN

### 22nd Annual William T. Small, Jr. Keynote Lecture



LaTosha Brown is an award-winning organizer, philanthropic consultant, political strategist and jazz singer with over twenty years of experience working in the non-profit and philanthropy sectors on a wide variety of issues related to political empowerment, social justice, economic development, leadership development, wealth creation and civil rights. She is the co-founder of Black Voters Matter Fund, a power building southern based civic engagement organization that played an instrumental role in the 2017 Alabama U.S. Senate race. Ms. Brown is principal owner of TruthSpeaks Consulting, Inc., a philanthropy advisory consulting firm in Atlanta, GA. For more than 25 years, she has served as a consultant and advisor for individual donors, government, public foundations and private donors. Throughout her career, Ms. Brown has distinguished herself as a trusted expert and resource in political strategy, rural development and special programming for a number of national and regional philanthropies. She is the founding project director of Grantmakers for Southern Progress.

## ABOUT MS. BROWN'S LECTURE

America's political landscape is shifting in the global and domestic arenas in ways that threaten the country's foundation as a democratic nation. We are witnessing the shifting of the perception and function of the Executive Branch, the increasing overreach of Presidential powers, the politicization of the Supreme Court, the intentional reduction of the role of federal agencies in state oversight, an increasingly polarized Congress, and the stacking of the federal courts with conservative judges.

We are also bearing witness to the passage and implementation of deeply troubling policies, state sanctioned acts and legislation that impact and increase health disparities of communities of color, immigrant groups, women, people of color and the LGBTQ community. In light of these political changes, we must ask ourselves three critical questions: 1) How do we implement innovative practices and new political organizing models to reverse this trend? 2) How do we reinforce and expand Americans' commitment to democracy? 3) How do we inspire, engage and motivate American citizens to center and value health care access as a human right?

Questions for our Keynote Speakers? Go to <http://go.unc.edu/KeynoteQA>



# AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**DR. ABDUL EL-SAYED**

**9th Annual Victor J. Schoenbach Keynote Lecture**



Dr. Abdul El-Sayed is a physician, epidemiologist, public health expert, and progressive activist. His forthcoming book, "Healing Politics" (Abrams Press), diagnoses our country's epidemic of insecurity and the empathy politics we will need to treat it. He is the host of "America Dissected," a podcast by Crooked Media. In 2018, Abdul ran for Governor of Michigan on an unapologetically progressive platform. Prior, he served the City of Detroit as Health Director, appointed to rebuild Detroit's Health Department after it was privatized during the city's bankruptcy. Before entering public service, he was Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health where he led Columbia's Systems Science Program and Global Research Analytics for Population Health. He has over 100 peer reviewed scientific publications that have been cited over 1200 times. Abdul earned a Doctorate in Public Health from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He also holds a Medical Degree from Columbia University where he was an NIH-funded Medical

Scientist Training Program Fellow and Soros New Americans Fellow. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with Highest Distinction from the University of Michigan, where he was chosen to deliver the student remarks alongside President Bill Clinton. He was born and raised in Metro Detroit, where he lives with his wife Sarah, a psychiatrist, and daughter Emmalee.

## ABOUT DR. EL-SAYED'S LECTURE

Dr. Abdul El-Sayed's grandmother is the wisest, most intelligent person he's ever met, but she never learned to read as a working-class woman growing up in Egypt in the 1940s. Two of the eight babies she gave birth to died before their first birthdays. She's the reason he became a doctor. As health director in the City of Detroit, he rebuilt Detroit's Health Department to target health inequities that prey on low-income and marginalized people in communities like Detroit—and Egypt. But the work of public health is inherently political, so he ran for Governor of Michigan in 2018. In this talk, Dr. El-Sayed talks about the experience of rebuilding a health department in America's poorest city, connects the dots between politics and public health, and lays out a vision for using how we engage this political moment with an eye to public health empowerment to address health inequities.

Questions for our Keynote Speakers? Go to <http://go.unc.edu/KeynoteQA>



## GUEST SPEAKERS



### RYAN DIAL-STANLEY

#### INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ryan currently resides in Chapel Hill, NC, where he is a student at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in the division of Clinical Lab Science. He is employed at the UNC Cystic Fibrosis Research Center as a Laboratory Technician. At UNC, he is a member of the Carolina Indian Circle, the Clinical Lab Science Service Society, and serves as the President of the Gamma Chapter of Phi Sigma Nu Native American Fraternity.

Ryan Dial-Stanley is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and has served as a cultural educator for most of his life. For years, Ryan has traveled across the state to various venues including schools, libraries, and community centers to educate others on the lives and practices of North Carolina's first peoples.



### HANNAH L. DRAKE

#### SPOKEN WORD

Hannah L. Drake is a blogger, activist, public speaker, poet, and author of 11 books. She writes commentary on politics, feminism, and race. Hannah's message is thought-provoking and at times challenging, but she believes that it is in the uncomfortable spaces that change can take place. "My sole purpose in writing and speaking is not that I entertain you. I am trying to shake a nation."

The poem *Spaces* summarizes the awkwardness of standing in spaces that have been designed in ways to be exclusive instead of inclusive. How much better could the world be if we created spaces through a lens of equity? There is something magical that happens when people can see and hear themselves in their communities. There is a building of agency and sustainable change when people have ownership over the spaces that they occupy and when they see themselves all around them. Creating through a lens of equity will not always be easy. It will take work, require outside-of-the-box thinking and may not always be the most lucrative position, but it is worth it to at least attempt to use our creativity as artists to leave this world a better place for others because we were in it. We can use our art to erase barriers, start a dialogue, challenge systems, ignite new thinking and show the beauty of the world when people who were once marginalized have authority, power and a voice in their spaces.





# MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE

## CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Rakiah Anderson  
Ishani Patel

## MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS CO-PRESIDENTS

Deanie Anyangwe  
Hailey Mason

## PLANNING COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Donald Fejfar, *Internal*  
Veronica Pham, *External*

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Bria Berry\*  
Emily Dake\*  
Jared Bishop  
Graham Booth  
Jess Bousquette  
Erin Case  
Zamantha Granados  
Smiti Kaul  
Minna McFarland  
Lauren Schauer  
Nancy Sey

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Lauren Frey\*  
Ekiuwa Imariagbe\*  
Sophia Bartels  
Tricia Chesson  
Claire Hoffman  
Maya Logan  
Andrea Mendoza  
Mackenzi Moore  
Morgen Philippi  
Amanda Rietti Souto  
Claire Su  
Ananya Tadikonda  
Hope Thomson

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Emily Newman\*  
Esther Lee, *Graphic Designer*  
Katie Huber  
Rhea Jaisinghani  
Aditi Kamat  
Sarah Muthler  
Margaret Nemitz  
Marlyn Pulido  
Meki Shewangizaw  
Parisa Shirzadi  
Cason Whitcomb  
Ali Zuercher

## POSTERS COMMITTEE

Paige Logan\*  
Margaret Moakley\*  
Josee Dussault  
Steven Houang  
Isabel Morgan  
Anna Patterson  
Snigdha Peddireddy  
Gray Rodgers

## EXHIBITORS COMMITTEE

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Adrienne Lloyd\*  
Mariela Arias  
Luisa Furstenberg-Bechman  
Gretchen Mason  
Isabella Pallotto  
Laura Powis  
Kay Schaffer  
Lily Stevens

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Allyson Corbo\*  
Emily Berns  
Meghan Chua  
Morgan Cooper  
Chloe Mitchel  
Keiyitho Omonuwa  
Emily Pak  
Caroline Ritchie  
Rossana Roberts  
Annelise Slater

## ADVISORS

Chandra Caldwell  
Kauline Cipriani  
Trinnette Cooper  
Charletta Sims Evans  
Sara Wajda  
Cherelle Whitfield

\* Denotes committee co-chair



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS OVERVIEW

1

## **Environmental and Climate Justice: The Battle Against Environmental Racism**

**SPEAKERS:** William J. Barber III, John Mayo, Catherine Hoyo, Lenora S. Smith  
**LOCATION:** Sunflower

2

## **Story Sharing as Community Engagement: The MI-PHOTOS Project**

**SPEAKERS:** Kim Pevia, Katherine LeMasters, Sarah Elizabeth Bledsoe, Jada Brooks, Alexandria Locklear, Nicole Huggins  
**LOCATION:** Dogwood

3

## **Leading with Lived Experience: Community Stakeholders and Researchers Partnering to Address Neighborhood Influences on Health**

**SPEAKERS:** Samuel Baxter, Recardo Kersey, Georgina Dukes, Cooper Blackwell  
**MODERATOR:** Aaron Neal  
**LOCATION:** Redbud

4

## **Real Talk: Language Inaccess in Our Health Systems, Grassroots Organizing for Language Justice**

**SPEAKERS:** Zin Lyons, Asif Khan, Meagan Clawar  
**LOCATION:** Azalea

5

## **Successful Transition Back to the Community and Healthcare after Release from Incarceration: Peer Support by Community Health Workers in the Formerly Incarcerated Transition Program**

**SPEAKERS:** Evan Ashkin, Tommy Green, Dorel Clayton, Eugene Wilson  
**LOCATION:** Mt. Laurel



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS OVERVIEW

## Academia, Dissemination & Policy

6

**SPEAKERS:** Celeste Davis, Valerie Yerger, Marisa Domino, Gabriela Nagy  
**MODERATOR:** Sarah Mills  
**LOCATION:** Mt. Laurel

## Our Sisters' Keeper: An Open Dialogue About Black Womxn's Health

7

**SPEAKERS:** Britney Gullede, Janee' Henderson, Erika Byers  
**LOCATION:** Dogwood

## Equity is the Price of Admission: Racial Equity Through Leading With and For People with Lived Experience

8

**SPEAKERS:** Melvin Jackson, Rumana S. Rabbani, Shemekka Ebony Coleman  
**LOCATION:** Sunflower

## Mano Amiga: People Helping People

9

**SPEAKERS:** Lariza Garzon, Luis Ruiz, Esmeralda Dominguez  
**LOCATION:** Redbud

## Asthma and Healthy Homes: Addressing the Health Equity Gap in Orange County, North Carolina, through Multi-Sector Partnerships

10

**SPEAKER:** Krishnaveni Balakrishnan  
**LOCATION:** Azalea



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

1

## Environmental and Climate Justice: The Battle Against Environmental Racism

**SPEAKERS:** William J. Barber III, John Mayo, Catherine Hoyo, Lenora S. Smith  
**LOCATION:** Sunflower

Where we live, work, learn, play, and pray profoundly influences our health. This session is designed to explore prevention and policy issues associated with environmentalism. Strategies will be presented to empower disenfranchised communities to advocate for an environment free from environmental hazards. After attending this session, participants should be able to identify environmental injustice in their communities, demonstrate methods for correcting environmental hazards in their homes, and advocate for policy changes that influence healthy, sustainable communities.

### William J. Barber III

William J. Barber III, JD is the strategic partnerships associate at The Climate Reality Project. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law where he earned his juris doctorate. William is heavily interested in environmental policy, having completed work with several environmental advocacy groups, including the UNC Law Center for Climate, Energy, Environment, and Economics; Clean Water for North Carolina; and Clean Energy Works. He currently serves as a member of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Secretary's Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board, as well as co-chair for the North Carolina Poor People's Campaign Ecological Devastation committee. William has several years of experience in grassroots and community organizing, working as a field secretary for the North Carolina NAACP for two years and serving as one of a three-member leadership team for Moral Freedom Summer, a long-term voter mobilization campaign spearheaded by the North Carolina NAACP. William attended college at North Carolina Central University, where he completed an undergraduate degree in environmental physics. He is interested in the renewable energy field, specifically in initiatives that are being taken to promote opportunity for modest income communities and communities of color.

### John Mayo

John Mayo is a native of Granville County, North Carolina. He has monitored the health implications of unsafe water and has noted that there are higher than expected levels of manganese in the water supply and an uptick in the incidence of cancer in Granville. After noticing that there was a problem with the water quality in the county, he approached elected officials with his concerns and has since served as an advocate for clean and safe water for his community. Mayo attended NC A & T State University, served two years in the US Army, and now resides in Butner with his wife Emma.



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Panel

### Catherine Hoyo

Dr. Catherine Hoyo is an epidemiologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at North Carolina State University and co-leader of the Integrative Health Science Facility Core in the Center for Human Health and the Environment. Her research improves the understanding of how early development influences risk of common chronic diseases, especially those that exhibit racial/ethnic differences in incidence and/or mortality. She serves as the principal investigator of the Newborn Epigenetics Study (NEST), a birth cohort following children currently ages 3-5 years to determine the extent to which prenatal exposure to toxic metals is associated with shifts in the epigenome and increased risk of childhood obesity. Dr. Hoyo, a native of Zimbabwe, obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Sierra Leone, Njala College, a Master's degree from UC Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. Her first faculty appointment was at North Carolina Central University, a Historically Black College in Durham, NC. She later joined the faculty at Duke University, School of Medicine, where she worked in the Department of Community and Family Medicine and in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Epidemiology.

### Lenora S. Smith

Lenora S. Smith is the Executive Director of the Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health (PEACH) and currently serves as the board chair. She has more than 20 years of community connectivity – creating, directing, and working with residents and other organizations to make resources available to marginalized and underserved residents throughout the community. Lenora's work has focused on making PEACH a comprehensive lead-based paint training program and environmental remediation company. She uses experiential education philosophy to engage program participants in methodologies for community outreach. Under her leadership, PEACH has provided paid AmeriCorps Service opportunities for 11 Durham residents including high school students, formerly incarcerated residents, college and graduate level participants. She currently serves on the Duke Chancellor's Community Health Advisory Board, Mayor's Poverty Reduction Initiative, Northeast Central Durham Leadership Council, and Latino Health Roundtable. Also, Lenora served as the secretary for the Durham Branch NAACP from 2006-2008 and she received the Inter-Neighborhood Council, Neighborhood Hero Award in 2006. Lenora is from Port Chester, NY, and lives in Durham with her husband Lester, and they have three grown children.





# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 2 Story Sharing as Community Engagement: The MI-PHOTOS Project

**SPEAKERS:** Kim Pevia, Katherine LeMasters, Sarah Elizabeth Bledsoe, Jada Brooks, Alexandria Locklear, Nicole Huggins  
**LOCATION:** Dogwood

In this workshop, university (a public health student and social work faculty member) and community-based researchers (mothers involved in Photovoice, community leaders, and community partners at health-based organizations) will facilitate story sharing with the audience using the Mothers Improving Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Outcomes Through stOry Sharing (MI-PHOTOS) project as a guide. Story sharing is a component of deep engagement with community members that is particularly important for researchers to engage in when working with rural communities. Project partners will facilitate groups of five to six audience members. Participants will conduct story sharing discussions in their groups and subsequently share back with the larger group about what they learned through this experience. All project partners will then engage in a facilitated discussion about the MI-PHOTOS project process and lessons learned from story sharing. MI-PHOTOS is an exploratory study which seeks to improve perinatal health in Robeson County using photovoice, a community-based participatory research methodology in which community members photograph their lived experiences in their community to spark discussion and social change. Photovoice presented a venue for community members to share stories about motherhood and raising a family and work towards potential community action to address their desires for change.

### Kim Pevia

Kim Pevia is a life strategist, engaging keynote speaker, and a uniquely skilled, experiential styled, transformational workshop facilitator. Her company, K.A.P., Inner Prizes, specializes in identifying and addressing issues that can keep us stuck by continually developing a personalized toolbox to help us hurdle over them. Her favorite work is done in circles. Her favorite topics include Emotional intelligence, Gifts of Conflict, Impacts of Historical Trauma, Cultural Healing, Innocuous Nature of Fear, most of which she includes in Race, Equity and Inclusion work. Born and educated in Baltimore, MD she currently lives in Robeson County, NC where her roots run deep as a member of the Lumbee Tribe. She serves on many local, state and national boards that support community activism and local economy through arts, food, culture and tourism. She is the President of the Board of Alternate Roots, which promotes arts, community and activism in the South. She is a writer and the founder of Artist Market-Pembroke, providing retail opportunities for local and regional artists in southeast NC. Her love of community and films led her to be the curator of the annual Lumbee Film Festival (along with Cucalurus) and the monthly CommUnity Cinema (partnered with Working Films).



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Workshop

### **Katherine LeMasters**

Kate is a second-year doctoral student in epidemiology and works at the intersection of social epidemiology and health equity. She focuses on perinatal mental and physical health and sexual health in marginalized communities both globally and in North Carolina, primarily using community-based participatory research approaches. She received her MPH in Maternal and Child Health from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

### **Sarah Elizabeth Bledsoe**

Sarah (Betsy) Bledsoe is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at UNC. She focuses on the mental health of marginalized mothers in the United States.

### **Jada Brooks**

Jada Brooks is an assistant professor at the UNC School of Nursing. For this project, Dr. Brooks serves as a cultural insider to Robeson County and bridges both academic and community environments, as she both lives in and conducts research with residents of Robeson County. She earned a PhD from Duke University and completed postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Brooks' research program advances knowledge of inflammation as a potential biological pathway linking environmental pollutant exposure and psychosocial factors to cardiovascular disease in American Indian women. Her research program is designed to inform low-cost and culturally based psychosocial interventions that seek to reduce American Indian women's susceptibility to environmental pollutants. The goal of this work is to promote environmental health equity among American Indian women.

### **Alexandria Locklear**

Alexandria Locklear is a first-time mother living in Robeson County. She is part of the Nurse Family Partnership program for first-time mothers and has been part of the MI-PHOTOS project since 2019.

### **Nicole Huggins**

Nicole is a mother of 2 beautiful, and a bit wild, kids. She is a full-time student working towards an RN and also works part-time. She lives in Robeson County and has been part of the MI-PHOTOS project since it began in 2019.



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 3 Leading with Lived Experience: Community Stakeholders and Researchers Partnering to Address Neighborhood Influences on Health

**SPEAKERS:** Samuel Baxter, Recardo Kersey, Georgina Dukes, Cooper Blackwell  
**MODERATOR:** Aaron Neal  
**LOCATION:** Redbud

Many of us know our health is profoundly influenced by where we live. However, few acknowledge that structural forces interact with place to inequitably fashion constraints and opportunities that result in racial health inequities. Thus, living in a marginalized community has become associated with poor health outcomes. Achieving health equity requires those with privilege to intentionally consider who endures societal disadvantages, where they exist, and what role we, being privileged, will play in society. Grappling with the challenge of this reality, this panel presentation offers highlights from a mixed methods community-based study that asked young Black men, residing in Durham, North Carolina, to identify neighborhood features that were related to their cardiovascular health. Panelists include community advisory board members and a doctoral researcher who partnered for this research study. Panelists will offer their insights on the community-engaged research process and present study findings rooted in the lived experiences of young Black men. We hope conference attendees will leave our session understanding (1) one process of community-engaged research, (2) challenges and successes of community-academic research partnerships, and (3) the critical need for decision makers to back solutions identified by community members.

### Samuel Baxter

Samuel Baxter is committed to the health and longevity of African American males across the lifespan. Specifically, he is interested in understanding how racial health disparities emerge among young men and leveraging this knowledge to create intervention strategies and policy-relevant solutions to improve the health trajectories of African American men. As a doctoral candidate in Health Policy and Management at UNC (Gillings School of Global Public Health), his dissertation explores racial differences in the relationship between residential segregation and heart health among young men. Prior to attending UNC, he earned his MPH from Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA) and his BS in Sociology from Clemson University (Clemson, SC). Samuel Baxter is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar.

### Recardo Kersey

Recardo Kersey is a graduating senior at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where he majors in Public Health Education. He is deeply committed to improving the health of Black and Brown communities as a researcher and public health specialist. During his time at NCCU, Recardo led a campus-wide blood drive for students and created an iron-rich nutritional guide to increase participation. Under the mentorship of Dr. Christopher Edwards, he has published several papers focused on mental health among Black adults. Within the next 10 years, Recardo aspires to become an Occupational Health Safety Coordinator, implementing policies to change the ways that social determinants of health impact worker wellness and safety.



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Panel

### Georgina Dukes

Georgina Dukes is a social justice advocate and is passionate about using healthcare as a vehicle to create social innovation. Georgina began her career in healthcare administration while a public health student at Clemson University where she managed student and primary care clinics in low-income, rural areas. She has a master's degree in health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina where she continued to build her experience in healthcare through academic medical center strategic operations. After graduation, she was awarded the Duke Health Administrative Fellowship where she executed on projects bridging the gap between hospitals and community health initiatives. Georgina Dukes is now the North Carolina Project Manager for NCCARE360 through Unite Us – a tech company created to address Social Determinants of Health.

### Cooper Blackwell

Cooper Blackwell is a Resource Development Coordinator at OIC, a non-profit in Rocky Mount, North Carolina dedicated to its mission of helping people help themselves. Cooper is the Chair of the Just Foods Collaborative of Nash/Edgecombe Counties, peer mentor and community liaison for S.O.P., member of the NAACP, and Drumline Instructor of Rocky Mount High School. A 2018 graduate of the UNC School of Government Community Development Academy, Mr. Blackwell spreads awareness of racial segregation, minority business investment, and equitable development. He is an inaugural cohort member of Launch Rocky Mount, a business training program. He was recently accepted as a Helius Foundation Fellow, which provides mentoring and funding resources for entrepreneurs. He opened A1 Innovations in March 2019 to provide event management, grant writing, and business consulting services with peers. Cooper Blackwell, formally known as Reuben Cooper Blackwell V, comes from generations of civil rights advocates, scholars and entrepreneurs. Raised in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, he leads a life of freedom and expresses himself through public speaking, percussive instrumentation, and event coordination. He is a proud Rocky Mount High School Gryphon (2013), NCCU Eagle (2013-2016) and NCWC Bishop (2017).

### Aaron Neal (Moderator)

Aaron Neal is a second year graduate doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Program here at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He works with Enrique Neblett, Jr., PhD and Shauna M. Cooper, PhD in the African American Youth Wellness lab and Strengths, Assets, and Resiliency lab respectively. His current research examines how expressions of joy influences the relationship between racial discrimination and depressive symptoms in Black individuals. His broader research interests employ Community Engaged and Youth Participatory Action Research to understand how structural and institutional racism impacts Black youths' development, health, and well-being. He holds a Bachelors in Biology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University as well as a Masters in Neuroscience and Education from Teachers College Columbia University.



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 4 Real Talk: Language Inaccess in Our Health Systems, Grassroots Organizing for Language Justice

**SPEAKERS:** Zin Lyons, Asif Khan, Meagan Clawar  
**LOCATION:** Azalea

Join members of the Refugee Community Partnership for a round table discussion on the structural mechanics of language inaccess, and how Language Justice offers a more radical approach to reorganizing the power dynamics produced by our monolingual English institutions. We will explore the intersection of language and health inequities, relational language accompaniment, and grassroots organizing to build community and institutional capacity for long term language access.

### Zin Lyons

Zin Lyons serves as a Refugee Health and Communicable Disease Nurse at the Orange County Health Department. She immigrated to the United States from Myanmar at a young age and shortly discovered her deep desire to become a nurse. Zin relocated from California to Virginia to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at George Mason University. She joined the Army National Guard during her nursing education and the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). After graduating from nursing school with magna cum laude and commissioning as an Army officer from ROTC as a distinguished military graduate, Zin served as an Active Duty Nurse at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for four years. During her time in the military, Zin experienced first-hand the impact preventive healthcare has on people's overall quality of health. She went on to earning a Master of Public Health degree and began serving the community as a public health nurse in 2018. When Zin is away from her work, she enjoys boxing, outdoor activities, house projects, reading, and connecting with her friends. Her endeavors are endless, but for now Zin enjoys serving her community and reaching the lives of those who may not have been given the same opportunities.

### Asif Khan

Asif Khan is a fourth-year medical student at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Passionate about care for the oppressed and alarmed by acute health disparities, Asif designed an academic-community partnership to pilot a healthcare hotspotting model for the local refugee communities. Through a micro-macro framework, Asif seeks to address individual and systemic barriers to meaningfully act on the social determinants of health. Born and raised in Bangladesh, Asif moved to the United States as a teenager and went to UNC-CH for his undergraduate studies. In 2012, Asif founded Refugee Community Partnership (RCP), a community-based non-profit in Carrboro. RCP creates personalized pathways out of poverty for forcibly displaced people by building protective ecosystems of resources, relationships, and opportunities that enable and sustain social mobility. Prior to medical school, Asif also worked as a medical interpreter. Based on his experiences, Asif strongly believes that lack of adequate language access which is widespread in our healthcare setting causes significant harm and trauma for our limited-English speaking neighbors.





# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Roundtable Discussion

### Meagan Clawar

Meagan is the Programs Manager for Refugee Community Partnership (RCP). In the first few years with RCP, Meagan witnessed social determinants of health at play in every aspect of life for RCP members. From not being able to access health services due to inadequate or non-existent language services, to families being excluded from decision making tables in local institutions and government – all of these experiences deepened her understanding of how the social determinants of health affect local communities health and, consequently, livelihoods. Witnessing these experiences alongside family after family lit a fire in Meagan to dig deeper and identify unique ways to address these issues at the root – the systems level. Eager to understand systems level change strategies, Meagan continued her studies at UNC and received her Masters in Science of Public Health. Her role requires her to negotiate language access at local institutions, partner with community leaders to ensure their voices and communities have a seat at the decision-making tables, implement program evaluation strategies and pursue partnerships with local organizations to create accessible programs and services that families request—all with an eye towards addressing social determinants of health.



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 5 Successful Transition Back to the Community and Healthcare after Release from Incarceration: Peer Support by Community Health Workers in the Formerly Incarcerated Transition Program

**SPEAKERS:** Evan Ashkin, Tommy Green, Dorel Clayton, Eugene Wilson  
**LOCATION:** Mt. Laurel

In this panel presentation, Dr. Ashkin will begin with an overview of the criminal justice system (CJS) and health. He will discuss demographics of people in the criminal justice system and the disproportionate impact on minorities, elaborating on “the war on drugs” and its impact on communities of color and resultant mass incarceration. Specifically, he will present demographic data on minorities in the CJS and consequences on their communities. Dr. Ashkin will present data on the known health conditions of incarcerated people included physical health, mental health and substance use disorder. Tommy Green will then give an overview of the NC FIT Program and the role of Community Health Workers. He will discuss their unique ability to assist people coming from incarceration as peer navigators. Eugene Wilson will address collateral consequences of incarceration and the enormous barriers people face in trying to successfully return to their community. Finally, Dorel Clayton will discuss efforts in Durham to reduce post-release overdose deaths by starting Medication Assisted Treatment for people with Opioid Use Disorder prior to release from jail. We will then take questions from the audience.

### Evan Ashkin

Dr. Evan Ashkin graduated from the Tufts University School of Medicine and did his residency in Family and Community Medicine at the University of California at San Francisco. He is a professor of Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Ashkin founded the Underserved Track in the Family Medicine Residency Program at UNC and sees patients at the Prospect Hill Community Health Center. He also serves as a regional medical director for Community Care of North Carolina. Dr. Ashkin founded the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program in 2017 to help address the absence of a linkage to care for people released from incarceration with chronic disease, mental illness and/or substance use disorder.

### Tommy Green

Tommy Green, CHW, NCPSS, is the Lead Community Health Worker for the NC Formerly Incarcerated Transitions program. He was incarcerated from 2003 to 2015 for armed robbery. Since his release he has worked for the Orange County Health Department for two years and before that he was the Assistant Operations Manager for McLaurin Parking Company (a company that sold for \$20,000,000 in 2018). He is currently enrolled in Walden University’s Bachelor of Science in Psychology program and studied African American History and Economics through the University of North Carolina. Mr. Green was born in Oxford, NC and raised in Durham, NC where he currently resides with his wife.



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Panel

### Dorel Clayton

Dorel is a peer support professional with practical, life-changing experience, who works to assist individuals with chemical dependency, mental health disorders, and other stressors. Dorel has helped peers of all ethnic groups but has focused on African Americans. As a result of his real-world experience, Dorel has expertise that professional training cannot replicate. He also assists individuals with increasing self-advocacy to obtain necessary and effective services. Dorel spent five years working on a crisis unit and has been trained in health care counseling and Peer Bridging. Dorel is certified in Peer Support by the State of North Carolina and received certification as a facilitator with Cardinal Innovations, in addition to certifications in CPR, First Aid, and EBPI, as well as being well-versed in WRAP® intervention. Dorel's experience, compassion, and previous justice involvement led to him becoming a Supervisor for Durham's implementation of the cure violence model designed to prevent gun violence. Today Dorel continues employment with Durham County and is the Community Health Worker for the FIT Program. Dorel is a dedicated husband and loving father. He's also committed to reducing recidivism and the stigma associated with substance use disorder and mental health in the Black community.

### Eugene Wilson

Eugene spent over 17 years incarcerated in various prisons in North Carolina beginning in 1993 at the age of 18 years of age. Upon release, he vowed to return to the community and make a positive impact and began to volunteer with the Offender Connection Network. He is currently a Community Health Worker with the NC-FIT program. He assists individuals who have been recently released from incarceration to connect to health services. Eugene has coordinated and administered programs in Guilford County for over eight years. He has utilized his skillset when working for: Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine, the City of Greensboro, Rescare Workforce Services, the Office of Workforce Development in Guilford County, and Piedmont Triad Regional Council. Eugene is a trusted authority when it comes to re-entry. In his work, he has collaborated with other experts in Juvenile Justice, Workforce Development, and the Healthcare industry. Eugene has completed specialized trainings in Making It Work, Napoleon Hill, Breaking Free of Barriers, Cognitive Behavior Intervention, and Human Resources Development. Eugene has an accreditation from UNC-Chapel Hill in Sociology: Racial and Ethnic Relations.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 6 Academia, Dissemination & Policy

**SPEAKERS:** Celeste Davis, Valerie Yerger, Marisa Domino, Gabriela Nagy  
**MODERATOR:** Sarah Mills  
**LOCATION:** Mt. Laurel

This session will take the form of a panel, bringing together diverse faculty from four universities - UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, American University & UCSF - to discuss their experiences conducting research, disseminating research, and influencing policy changes related to minority health. Panelists will share their perspectives on research ranging from disproportionate tobacco use in marginalized communities as social injustice to psychosocial interventions to reduce acculturative stress for Latinx immigrants. Panelists will engage in conversation together and with the audience on what it means to affect change from within the academy.

### Celeste Davis

Celeste Davis is a health equity advocate and educator driven by a passion and unique skill set to center the voice of systemically oppressed communities through her academic and policy work. Her broad perspective of the most urgent offenses to health equity and justice, along with her training in social science, public policy, and law, gives her opportunities to help propel movements for change. At American University, Celeste teaches classes on health policy, food justice, and multicultural health. In her policy work, she has lead coalitions through building and management and issue advocacy. She attended law school at Boston University and has a Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from the University of Michigan. She is a graduate of Bennett College for Women, an HBCU located in Greensboro, NC.

### Valerie Yerger

Valerie B. Yerger, ND is a Professor in Health Policy at UCSF. The goal of Dr. Yerger's work is to frame the disproportionate burden of tobacco among marginalized communities as a social injustice and to inform public health policies so they effectively reach and engage these communities. Her research of previously secret tobacco documents uncovered the tobacco industry's relationship with African American leadership groups, the disproportionate marketing of menthol cigarettes in inner-city communities and tobacco companies' in-house research on the use of menthol as an additive in cigarettes. Dr. Yerger has been a key expert involved in many local educational and advocacy efforts to restrict the sale of menthol cigarettes. She provided expert testimony to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the use of menthol in cigarettes. Currently, Dr. Yerger oversees a statewide project, "The LOOP," funded by the California Tobacco Control Program (CTCP). The LOOP provides trainings and assistance to other CTCP-funded projects to help them connect, communicate and collaborate with the state's underserved populations. Dr. Yerger is a founding member of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council and the past recipient of numerous awards, including the UCSF Chancellor Award for Public Service and the Public Health Law Center's Game Changer Award.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Panel

### Marisa Domino

Marisa Elena Domino, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Gillings School of Global Public Health; she is also director of the Program on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Systems and Services Research at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. She received her doctoral degree in health economics from Johns Hopkins University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the economics of mental health at Harvard Medical School's Department of Health Care Policy. Dr. Domino's research interests include the economics of mental health, agency relationships among physicians, patients and insurers, the diffusion of new technologies and the public provision of health care and health insurance to low-income populations. She is deeply interested in vulnerable populations and has created a research agenda throughout her career which examines the efficiency of health care policies in low income and disabled populations. She has considerable experience extracting measures of medication use and adherence, quality of care, utilization and costs from a large variety of data sources. Dr. Domino's work has focused on the effects of Medicaid program design on a variety of populations and outcomes, especially related to behavioral health and chronic illness.

### Gabriela Nagy

Dr. Gabriela Nagy is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Duke University School of Nursing. Her role is comprised of research, education and clinical duties. Dr. Nagy received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee prior to moving to Duke wherein she completed her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral training. Dr. Nagy has 2 primary lines of research. First, she is a health disparities researcher whose recent work is focused on starting to develop psychosocial interventions to reduce acculturative stress for Latinx immigrants. Second, she has led efforts to optimize learning methods in multicultural education. She has developed original coursework for clinical psychology PhD students, clinical psychology pre-doctoral interns, clinical psychology post-docs, psychiatry residents and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students. Moreover, Dr. Nagy co-developed the Duke Multicultural Consultation Team, a weekly peer consultation service that incorporates consultation, didactics and a Diversity Action Committee to increase capacity for delivery of quality care that is sensitive and responsive to various contexts often encountered by marginalized communities.

### Sarah Mills (Moderator)

Sarah D. Mills is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. Dr. Mills' research focuses on eliminating racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in tobacco use and tobacco-related disease. She uses a social-ecological framework to examine the roles that culture, the neighborhood in which one lives and public policy play in tobacco use. She also conducts research using factor analytic methods to validate measures across diverse groups. Dr. Mills' research is currently supported by a K01 Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award in Tobacco Regulatory Research from the National Cancer Institute and the FDA Center for Tobacco Products.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 7 Our Sisters' Keeper: An Open Dialogue About Black Womxn's Health

**SPEAKERS:** Britney Gullledge, Janee' Henderson, Erika Byers  
**LOCATION:** Dogwood

As the famed author, Audre Lorde expressed, "caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." This is especially true for the Black womxn. Black womxn's health disparities in the United States has been well documented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The literature around this topic focuses on factors of socioeconomic measures including income and education; but while these studies are completed, there are still staggering disparities for Black women that often mirror those of underdeveloped countries. We will hold an open dialogue format that discusses the core features of the Strong Black woman schema and how it influences the mental health of Black womxn; insights on how Black womxn discuss their health and health-seeking behaviors; as well as how Black womxn create digital and physical communities to network and support each other. The goal of this format is to continue in the tradition of oral communication central to the African American experience. The attendees will gain knowledge about potential impacts of the Strong Black Woman schema, mental health obstacles unique to Black womxn, Black womxn's health-seeking behaviors and ways that Black womxn create community in digital and physical spaces.

### Britney Gullledge

Britney Gullledge is a communication scholar and digital media strategist based out of Washington, D.C. As a doctoral student in the Communication, Culture and Media Studies program at Howard University, she critically examines digital storytelling and the use of technology in health promotion and health seeking behaviors for marginalized communities. Prior to attending Howard, she earned a B.A. in Journalism from Hampton University and a M.S. in Marketing Management from Wilmington University. For years prior to returning to academia, she focused on digital storytelling and strategizing for social justice movements as well as industries including higher education, entertainment, arts and non-profit.





# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Open Dialogue

### **Janee' Henderson**

Janee' V. Henderson is a licensed professional counselor and doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her general research interests include ethnic minority mental health, exploring the psychological effects of discrimination and oppression, trauma among marginalized groups and culturally competent trauma-informed care. Janee's current research focuses on the psychological impact of gendered racial microaggressions on Black women, the psychological implications of the Strong Black Woman construct and racial trauma. As a counselor, she weaves her research interest in the clinical field to address trauma and ways to improve mental health outcomes within communities of color. A key component within her work consists of her ability to empower and motivate clients by highlighting their strengths and assisting in the development of skills needed to overcome challenges.

### **Erika Byers**

Erika Byers, Ph.D. is the Chief Clinical Officer at Teamwork Healthcare. Dr. Byers has dedicated her work to ensure that all children, regardless of ability, are provided a high-quality, culturally relevant education through her work in education systems in the New York City metropolitan area. Most recently, she has expanded her work to include sharing the personal and unique stories of Black maternal health in the U.S. She is a California native who attended Hampton University for an undergraduate degree in psychology, before migrating to New York to earn two master's degrees and a doctoral degree from Columbia University, where she studied Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8

## Equity is the Price of Admission: Racial Equity Through Leading With and For People with Lived Experience

**SPEAKERS:** Melvin Jackson, Rumana S. Rabbani, Shemekka Ebony Coleman  
**LOCATION:** Sunflower

This interactive workshop will start with introducing race equity highlighted through the Race, Racism, & Equity (RRE) Journey Map 2.0 tool. We will then discuss the People with Lived Experience (PWLE) role and pre-relationship building. This part of the session will include an interactive “Call to Action”, which will introduce Parker J. Palmer’s FIVE HABITS OF THE HEART from Healing the Heart of Democracy. The activity will discuss proposed HoH expectations and touchstones. HoH are deeply ingrained ways of seeing, being, and responding to life that involves our minds, our emotions, our self-images, our concepts of meaning and purpose. We will contextualize HoH practices with race equity work and examine the political voice and democracy. These five interlocked habits are critical to sustaining a democracy. Attendees will be asked to conduct a self-evaluation that includes identifying “growing edges” and reflecting in small groups. The last part of the session will present SCALE methods and evaluation findings where HoH was identified as an Improvement Science tool that led to community transformation. This presentation will address how to move work forward and gain political voice for attendees in their own community and professional space by integrating PWLE to address race equity.

### Melvin Jackson

Melvin Jackson has over 40 years of experience in community engagement, public health research and program coordination. He is a principal partner with The PRIME Collective, LLC, a group of community experts who consults and partners with investigators on how to incorporate principles of community engagement into all phases of research. The PRIME Collective also provides an avenue for addressing many of the barriers faced around community members engaging in academic research. He is also engaged in community organizing and work to dismantle racism through his work with Raleigh Organizing Against Racism. Melvin Jackson is a Consultant to Community-Campus Partnerships for Health through its work on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. He has been the Public Health Advocacy Coordinator/Local Improvement Advisor with the Alexander YMCA SCALE (Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation) with the Southeast Raleigh Promise Collaborative. The Collaborative is a part of the transformative redevelopment initiative to create a Purpose Built Community. As a UNC community-academic partner he serves as a Community Expert for the Charrette community engagement consulting model, Community Director for the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars and the Community Director of the UNC Graduate Participatory Research Certificate program for cross-disciplinary graduate students.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Interactive Workshop

### Rumana S. Rabbani

Rumana received her Master's in Healthcare Administration from the Health Policy and Management Department at Gillings School of Global Public Health and has continued as a Doctoral student with a minor in Implementation Science. Rumana is the Chair of the Awards and Policy committees for the Community Health Worker (CHW) Section within American Public Health Association. She also serves as the co-President for the UNC Implementation Science Student Group. Rumana is a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) for Action Communities to help improve health equity for underserved communities sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and 100 Million Healthier Lives. Rumana is a member of the Race Equity Action Community where she has had the privilege to co-design with community members for effective implementation, evaluation, and scale-up of race equity initiatives. She serves as a GRA for the Family Planning National Training Center to help develop Implementation Science roadmaps and training guides for Title X services with a focus on advancing health equity. She has been a Principal Investigator for sustainability and implementation of integrated CHW programs for the last five years, focusing on sustainable payment models. Rumana plans to work as a scientist-practitioner using systems thinking and implementation science tools while applying community-based participatory research in order to effectively implement, sustain, and disseminate integrated clinical and social-determinants-of-health interventions to improve the "groundwater" issue of race equity and overall health equity for marginalized communities.

### Shemekka Ebony Coleman

Shemekka Ebony, health equity leader and HPRS Leadership Coach committed to expanding awareness about policy transformation in the areas of hair discrimination, racial equity, health equity, and economic equity with Black Women. She is a founding partner of I Am Brilliant, an organization and engagement strategy dedicated to connecting all the threads that weave through communities in order to provide people better access, honor their experiences, and institute best practices for sustainable partnerships. She consults several community and national organizations for best practices in community engagement. She also serves as convener of Black Women vendors and entrepreneurs seeking economic power and inclusion through her Black Girl Magic Market platform. Her life's work guides her community engagement expertise with I Am Brilliant & the CROWN Campaign.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 9 Mano Amiga: People Helping People

**SPEAKERS:** Lariza Garzon, Luis Ruiz, Esmeralda Dominguez  
**LOCATION:** Redbud

**Panel**

In 2018, two hurricanes hit the rural areas of Eastern North Carolina. Latino immigrant families and farmworkers found themselves in a desperate situation where many lost their homes, vehicles and jobs, all at the same time. Learn more about the challenges faced by this population and the work of EFWM, an Episcopal ministry that works to respond to the immediate needs of the community, to aid the community during the recovery period, and to ensure that the community is better prepared for the next disaster. Hear testimony from a community member who is working with others to prepare their neighbors for the next disaster.

### Lariza Garzon

Lariza was born in Bogota, Colombia. She moved to the United States and attended Stetson University in Deland, Florida. Lariza has been working with farmworker communities since 2004, when she was still in college. She is passionate about food production systems and farmworker justice.

### Luis Ruiz

Luis migrated from Mexico to the United States in 2003. He attended school in Goldsboro, NC, where he lived with his uncle. Later that year his parents and younger sister moved to the US and his family was reunited. In 2010, Luis returned to Mexico to attend school. After graduating, he volunteered teaching adult ESL and tutoring high school students. Luis returned to the US and worked at a Mexican restaurant and then a hotel. In 2014, his younger sister got him involved in community organizing, and they both completed an internship with the AFL-CIO, after which Luis received a position offer to work as an organizer. Working so closely with farm workers made him understand the improvement farm workers needed in the workplace which led him to get involved in international campaigns working with several organizations in Europe, Africa and Asia. Luis was part of the AFL-CIO state federation where he served as the VP from 2018 to 2019. Luis also worked with the AFL-CIO OI and LCLAA implementing trainings with other organizations. He recently started working with the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry and is currently the interim Disaster Relief Program Coordinator.

### Esmeralda Dominguez

Esmeralda was born in Tampico, Tamaulipas, México. She loves to spend time with her children: Brayan, a 10-year-old, Yureidy, a 9-year-old, Aaliyah, a 6-year-old, and Liam, who is 4 years old. Esmeralda is a happy, friendly person with many friends. Esmeralda had a wonderful childhood, and since she was a kid, she has tried to help everyone around her. After receiving help to recover from the 2018 hurricanes she became a Promotora for the Disaster Relief Program at the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry.



# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Asthma and Healthy Homes: Addressing the Health Equity Gap in Orange County, North Carolina, through Multi-Sector Partnerships

10

**SPEAKERS:** Krishnaveni Balakrishnan  
**LOCATION:** Azalea

**Speaker**

Though Orange County, NC is considered one of the healthiest counties in the state, the overall numbers mask inequalities; for example, Orange County has the second highest measure of income inequality in NC. Minority communities in Orange County experience a higher burden of inequity with less income, substandard and costly housing, and less access to healthcare. Approximately forty-eight percent of families who rent their home in Orange County are cost burdened, paying over thirty percent of their income alone on housing expenses. The lack of affordable housing in Orange County, along with poor quality housing stock has been linked to putting families at risk for environmental health hazards. Multi-sector collaboration between partners from the government, non-profit and health sectors are currently addressing the health equity gap in Orange County. This includes providing healthy homes assessments, green cleaning kits and healthy homes education workshops for community members, free of cost. Advocacy for stricter housing policies for property owners, along with low cost remediation initiatives that address poor housing conditions, are being proposed as well. This abstract highlights the current collaborative efforts addressing health equity in Orange County, NC.

### Krishnaveni Balakrishnan

Krishnaveni Balakrishnan serves as the Healthy Communities-Healthy Homes Coordinator for Orange County Health Department. A native of western North Carolina, she has worked with rural and urban communities throughout the state. Her research background includes community-based participatory research with the Montagnard community in Greensboro, North Carolina on hypertension and diabetes. Current work includes a focus on pediatric asthma, housing disparities, health policy and healthy homes outreach education. Additional endeavors include outreach work in immigrant and refugee communities, advocacy for race and health equity, and chronic disease prevention. She is a current member of Orange County's Health Equity Council, and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine's Healthy NC 2030 Physical Environment and Social and Economic work groups. Krishnaveni holds a MPH in Community Health Education and a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



# POSTERS

## 1. A Systematic Review of the Use of Race in Population Health Medical Research

Martinez, Rae Anne, MSPH, Gillings School of Global Public Health; Andrabi, Nafeesa, MA, UNC Chapel Hill; Goodwin, Andrea N., MA, UNC Chapel Hill; Wilbur, Rachel E., MPH, UNC Chapel Hill; Smith, Natalie R., MS, Gillings School of Global Public Health; Zivich, Paul N., MPH, Gillings School of Global Public Health; Aiello, Allison E., PhD, Gillings School of Global Public Health; Hummer, Robert A., PhD, UNC Chapel Hill

## 2. African American Women's Experiences with Birth after a Prior Cesarean Section

Miller, Megan W., Elon University; Baker, Stephanie, PhD, Elon University

## 3. Building Capacity to Address Implicit Bias and Structural Racism in Health Research: Lessons Learned from a Community Engaged Program's Training Intensive

Carter-Edwards, Lori, PhD, MPH, Community and Stakeholder Engagement (CaSE) Program, NC TraCS; Quarles, Elisa, CaSE Program, NC TraCS; Bilheimer, Alicia, MPH, CaSE Program, NC TraCS; Nandi, Anwesha, CaSE Program NC TraCS; Burgess, Sylvia, PhD, One Step at a Time Consulting, LLC

## 4. Championing Children's Health and Well-being: Approaches to Community-Centered Policy Advocacy in North Carolina

Byrum, Elizabeth, MSW, MPH, Resilient Communities Officer, North Carolina Partnership for Children; Arias, Sheila, NC Child Parent Advisory Council (PAC) member; Aguilar, Jessica, NC Child Parent Advisory Council (PAC) member

## 5. Community Birth Doulas in the Triangle

Ilsley, Tara, MPH, Durham Volunteer Doulas

## 6. Conceptualizing Syndemx: Migration Trauma, Structural Violence, and HIV Risk Behaviors Among Latina Womxn

Baca-Atlas, Stefani N., MSW, UNC School of Social Work; Jenkins, Melissa, R., MSW, UNC School of Social Work; Baca-Atlas, Michael H., MD, UNC Department of Family Medicine and UNC Wakebrook Primary Care

## 7. Education Entertainment for Lifelong and Systemic Wellness: A Qualitative Evaluation of a Multimodal Theatrical Production

Addie, Yewande O., MPH, University of Florida and Strekalova, Yulia A., PhD, University of Florida

## 8. Illness-related Stigma as a Risk Factor for Cigarette, Electronic-Cigarette and Marijuana Use among Native American Young Adults with Chronic Medical Conditions

Nwankwo, Cara N., BA, Oklahoma State University; Clawson, Ashley H., PhD, Oklahoma State University

## 9. Life Course Trajectories of Body Mass Index from Adolescence to Old Age: Racial, Gender, and Educational Disparities

Walsh, Christine E.; Yang, Yang C.; Johnson, Moira; Reason, Max; Aiello, Allison; Belsky, Dan; Mullan Harris, Kathleen; Curran, Patrick; Chanti-Ketterl, Marianne





## POSTERS

### **10. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)- Wake County: Diverse Communities Initiative**

*Baker, Brianna, RTI International/NAMI Wake*

### **11. The Association between Bullying, Victimization, Depression, and Suicidal Ideation among North Carolina High School Students**

*Lancaster, Christiana, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health; Debnam, Summer, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health*

### **12. “The doctor said it was fine and to vaccinate her; so, I trusted her word and did it, but I’m still afraid”: The Role of Triadic Communication in Understanding Human Papillomavirus Vaccination in Latina Adolescents**

*Baker, Stephanie, PhD, Elon University*

### **13. “Too much control over my identity”: Transgender youth of color’s perceptions of mental health referral requirements for accessing medical gender affirmation services**

*Goldenberg, Tamar, PhD, MPH, Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harper, Gary W., PhD, MPH, University of Michigan School of Public Health*

### **14. Sister Talk: Centering Women of Color’s Health & Wellness**

*Nelson, Nia I., University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill Student Wellness; Smith, Karly A.; Love, Gwendolyn; Hinds, Malikiya A.; White, Keena M*

### **15. Small Samples in Large Data: Representation of Minority Populations in the CDC’s Chronic Disease Indicators Dataset**

*Lanning, Jackie, North Carolina State University; Inman, Elliot, PhD, SAS Healthcare & Life Sciences R&D*

### **16. SUCCESS: Survivorship in Cancer Care with Equity and Support from Sisters**

*Hassan, Hajar, North Carolina Central University; Eng, Geni, UNC Chapel Hill; Jones, Nora, Sisters Network*

### **17. Voices from the Black Community: Willingness to Participate in Health and Medical Research among Black Patients with HCV**

*McGuire, F. Hunter, Center for Gastrointestinal Biology and Disease at the UNC School of Medicine; André, Kat, Center for Gastrointestinal Biology and Disease at the UNC School of Medicine; Evon, Donna M., PhD, Center for Gastrointestinal Biology and Disease at the UNC School of Medicine*



# 2020 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

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## **Campbell University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences**

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## **Carolina Abortion Fund**

P.O. Box 51534, Durham, NC  
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## **Center for Biological Diversity - Ignite Change**

4621 Langdon Dr., Morrisville, NC  
jlee@biologicaldiversity.org  
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## **Chapel Hill Carrboro NAACP & Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association**

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## **Clean Air Carolina**

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## **Community and Stakeholder Engagement Program**

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919-308-9314  
asblack@email.unc.edu

## **Community Enrichment Organization**

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## **Counter Tools**

205 Lloyd St., Carrboro, NC  
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## **Disability Rights of North Carolina**

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## **East Carolina University Department of Public Health**

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## **Inter-Faith Food Shuttle**

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## **La Leche League International**

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zion@lilli.org  
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## **Land Loss Prevention Project**

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Annette@landloss.org  
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## **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

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## **NC Preconception Health Campaign**

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## **NC Rural Center**

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## **Osteoarthritis Action Alliance**

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## **RWJF Clinical Scholars**

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## **Self Help Credit Union**

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## **SHIFT NC**

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## **Susan G. Komen North Carolina Triangle to the Coast**

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## **UC Berkeley School of Optometry**

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## **UNC Center for Health Equity Research**

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## **UNC Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry**

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