



2018 Scholars



[Olufunmilola Abraham, BPharm, MS, PhD](#)

I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) School of Pharmacy in the Social and Administrative Sciences Division where I earned my masters and doctoral degree (2009-2013) with a minor in Industrial and Systems Engineering. I received my pharmacy degree from University of Lagos, Nigeria in 2007 and practiced as a hospital and community pharmacist in Nigeria. Prior to joining UW this Spring, I was a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. I am a pharmacist and health services researcher. My research program focuses on improving medication use and pharmacy services for vulnerable and underserved populations particularly children and young adults through the use of technology-based interventions. One of my current projects explores the use of digital games to educate adolescents on the safe and appropriate use of medications. I am also interested in applying human factors and systems engineering in the redesign of pharmacy services for young adults with chronic diseases such as cystic fibrosis.

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[Chenoa Allen, PhD](#)

I am a postdoctoral fellow in the T32 Health Disparities Research Scholars program at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Having grown up in Appalachia, I did my undergraduate studies at East Tennessee State University (2007), my MS in Health and Medical Sciences and 2 years of medical school at the UC Berkeley – UC San Francisco Joint Medical Program (2010), and my PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (2016). My training is in program and policy evaluation, and I study the effects of structural racism – in the form of immigration policy – on the wellbeing of children in immigrant families. My newest project aims to identify "best practices" for local governments seeking to protect immigrant communities from the negative impacts of immigration enforcement by evaluating the impacts of "sanctuary" policies and local immigrant integration policies.

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[Ricky L. Camplain, MSPH, PhD](#)

I am a postdoctoral scholar at the Center for Health Equity Research at Northern Arizona University. I earned my doctoral degree in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My current research focuses on the identification and prevention of cardiovascular disease outcomes among incarcerated populations through leveraging existing data, including electronic health records and administrative claims linked with arrest and incarceration records. Additionally, I am involved in administering a survey among residents of a county jail with an interest in understanding the distribution of modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease among incarcerated individuals. I am interested in social justice, differences in experiences and health disparities among incarcerated racial/ethnic minorities, and how policy in the legal system can promote health behavior and opportunities among incarcerated individuals. My previous research has included examining physical activity among Native Americans and Hispanics/Latinos, hospitalized and non-hospitalized heart failure in the Medicare population, smoking and smoking cessation.

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[Carlos M. Cervantes, PhD, CAPE](#)

I joined Huston-Tillotson University as an assistant professor and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology in the Fall of 2012. I earned my PhD in Sport and Exercise Education from The Ohio State University with an emphasis in adapted physical education and health/physical activity promotion. My research interest focuses on physical activity, obesity and health disparities among individuals with disabilities and underserved populations. Secondary research interests include: accessibility and physical activity opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and professional preparation of pre-service teachers regarding teaching and including children with disabilities in physical education, sport, or recreational settings.

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[Enmanuel A. Chavarria, PhD, CHES](#)

I am a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Brownsville Regional Campus in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences. My overall research interests focus on leveraging communication technologies to aid in reducing health disparities and improving outcomes for medically underserved, vulnerable populations. My current research focuses on reducing cancer disparities and improving outcomes for high-risk and medically underserved populations in the area of preventive cancer screening in community and clinical settings. I received my Ph.D. in Health and Human Performance from the University of Florida in 2014; and an M.S. in Health Education and Behavior from the University of Florida in 2010. My postdoctoral training in Behavioral Oncology (NCI R25 PI: Paul B.

Jacobsen, PhD, mentored by Cathy D. Meade, PhD, RN, FAAN and Clement Gwede, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN) at Moffitt Cancer Center provided opportunities to lead, develop, and implement cancer education interventions incorporating both technology and Community-Based Participatory Research principles.

My long-term career goal is to be a successfully funded, community engaged independent investigator conducting research to develop and/or identify efficacious models/methods for reducing cancer health disparities across the cancer continuum with a particular focus on medically underserved and vulnerable populations.

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Dora Clayton-Jones, RN, PhD CPNP-PC

I am an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Marquette University and an adjunct faculty member at the Medical College of Wisconsin. I received my PhD in Nursing from Marquette University in 2014. The goal of my program of research is to promote health equity for vulnerable adolescents and emerging adults. I am currently examining the health care transition experiences of adolescents and emerging adults living with sickle cell disease including ways to promote their self-efficacy and transition readiness. My research interests include spirituality and health in adolescents and emerging adults, self-management of chronic conditions,

health disparities and equity, qualitative research, and community based participatory research.

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Erica Coates, PhD

I am a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Family Science in the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland. I earned my Ph.D. in clinical psychology from University of South Florida, and I completed my clinical internship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. My research focuses on the role of nonresidential father involvement and coparenting in child development among African American families. My professional goal is to develop and investigate culturally specific, family-based health interventions designed to improve

the socioemotional outcomes of African American youth from nonresident father households by promoting stronger coparenting alliances among noncohabiting parents.

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[Cher Dallal, PhD](#)

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Maryland School of Public Health in College Park, Maryland. I earned my PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh, an MPH in Epidemiology from Yale University and an MS in Applied Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the University of Southern California. Prior to my academic position, I was a Cancer Prevention Fellow at the National Cancer Institute where I completed my post-doctoral training within the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics.

My research focuses on the evaluation of lifestyle and hormonal factors as they relate to estrogen-mediated carcinogenesis. More specifically, my research centers on the following key areas: endogenous sex steroids with an emphasis on estrogen metabolism; active and sedentary behavior, obesity, and obesity-derived hormones; and, interrelationships between hormones, obesity, physical activity, and cancer risk and survival. In addition to exploring health behaviors, their interaction with biology and potential role in cancer prevention, my current research is focused on understanding racial/ethnic disparities in breast cancer incidence and survival. In addition to my research activities, I also teach graduate level courses including intermediate epidemiology, epidemiology of obesity and cancer epidemiology.

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[Eva DuGoff, PhD, MPP](#)

I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health in the Department of Health Services Research. My research focuses on understanding and improving the quality of care in our healthcare delivery system, particularly for older adults with multiple chronic conditions, and racial and ethnic minorities. I am particularly interested in how care coordination interventions impact patient health and experiences of care and affect (or do not affect) racial and socioeconomic disparities in health. My research focus is informed by my experiences

working in health policy for the Medicare Rights Center and Senator Ron Wyden's (D-Ore.).

As a researcher, my goal is to provide policymakers with the evidence needed to understand important issues facing vulnerable populations are important and what policy changes could be adopted to improve health outcomes for these populations. I received a Master's in Public Policy from George Washington University and a PhD in health services research from Johns Hopkins University.

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[Linnea Evans, PhD](#)

I am a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an affiliate of the Center for Demography and Ecology. I received my PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, with a concentration in Demography and Population Studies. Broadly, my research examines social exclusion processes that link racial and ethnic minoritized groups to disadvantaged health, particularly through pathways that affect the body's physiological stress response system. In my first line of research, I am investigating how the stratification of time by race, in the form of daily time demands and time exclusions, contribute to stress and racial disparities in early-onset chronic health conditions. Other work investigates specific policy-level influences on the health of communities of color, particularly during adolescence and young adulthood. This line of research is currently focused on school reform policies and the health and wellbeing of Black youth.

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[Susan Flowers Benton, PhD, CRC](#)

I am a certified rehabilitation counselor and postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I earned a BS in sociology from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge with a BS in 2004, an MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Southern University in Baton Rouge in 2008, and a doctorate in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2017.

As an emerging researcher, I have worked to eliminate racial disparities in healthy aging, chronic illness, and memory disorders, with a specific focus on middle-aged and older African Americans. I prefer to use mixed methods approaches to leverage the strengths of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and I believe that community collaboration is an important first step in designing more engaging and effective programs and interventions, as it presents the opportunity to partner with the communities in a way that is respectful of the community's traditions and values, and increases the ability to conduct more representative research. My current research agenda has two interrelated strands. The first focuses on the management and control of cardiometabolic risk factors, health self-management, and health promotion as a route to reducing health disparities in aging and memory disorders for African Americans. My dissertation focused on the experiences of older African American adults with chronic cardiometabolic disorders and mild cognitive impairment in a modified self-management program and was supported by the National Institutes of Health. The second strand focuses on centering the experiences of historically underrepresented groups in order to understand what factors influence research participation, as a way to make both health research and potential outcomes more accessible, inclusive and beneficial for members of marginalized groups.

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[Sarah Forrester, PhD, MS](#)

I am a postdoctoral associate at University of Massachusetts School of Medicine, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences. I earned my PhD in psychiatric epidemiology, with an emphasis in cognitive disorders of aging from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. My Bachelors and Masters degrees are in psychology. My research interests include racial disparities in aging, racially disparate health outcomes as a function of psychosocial stressors that are unique to minority aging populations, and integrating biological and psychosocial factors to create interventions to improve outcomes in aging minorities. In particular, I am interested in utilizing the biological age framework and integrating psychosocial factors to create a “sociobiological” age that can be used to predict future cognitive decline.

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[Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskiy, PhD, RN](#)

I am a practicing geriatric nurse and Assistant Professor the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing with affiliations in the Division of Geriatrics, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and Health Services and Care Research Program. I completed my Bachelors (2009), Masters (2010) and PhD at UW-Madison (2014), and a two-year Advanced Fellowship in Older Women’s Health with a concentration in clinical informatics at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital (2016). I study clinical care delivery and health disparities among people living with, and at risk for, Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. My research consistently aims to address questions of *access, agency, equity and care quality* during high risk points in the care/disease continuum and among disadvantaged or vulnerable groups. Much of my work has addressed the role of non-cognitive symptoms in the recognition, progression and management of dementia with an emphasis on integrated pain and symptom management. My current research focuses largely on promoting access to research and effective dementia-specific therapies through improved identification of dementia and enhancing the delivery of individualized care to optimize patient and caregiver-centered outcomes.

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[Madelyne Z. Greene, PhD, RN](#)

I am currently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Health Disparities Research Scholars Program in the Department of OGBYN at University of Wisconsin-Madison. I received my BSN and PhD in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and my research is influenced by my clinical work in surgical gynecology and women’s health. My research is grounded in sociocultural theories that explain health outcomes in structural and sociopolitical contexts, including social-ecological theory and intersectional and critical feminisms. My aim is to

use epidemiological frameworks to address disparities by investigating the role of health systems and health care encounters in driving prevention and health maintenance among marginalized groups.

I investigate disparities in sexual and reproductive health outcomes in two linked strands of research. First, I am specifically interested in healthcare disparities experienced by sexual and gender minority populations. Broadly, I am interested in access to high quality, affirming health care for sexual and gender minority groups over the lifespan. My dissertation work focused on the relationship between pregnancy and cervical cancer screening among sexual minority women. Second, I am interested in the healthcare system's role in driving pregnancy and birth-related outcomes in the US, and healthcare delivery factors that effectively promote healthy birth outcomes for marginalized individuals including racial and ethnic minority groups, sexual and gender minorities, and others. The long term goal of this research is the development and testing of practical strategies to improve the safety and effectiveness of health care for marginalized groups.

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C. Emily Hendrick, MPH, PhD

I am currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Health Disparities Research Scholars program in the Division of Reproductive and Population Health at the UW Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. I received my PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education from the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin in August 2017. I hold an MPH from the Division of Maternal and Child Health at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health and have over a decade of experience planning, implementing, and evaluating public health programming in the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Broadly, my research interests include understanding and reducing maternal, child, and adolescent health disparities by investigating

the determinants of women's health behaviors and health across the reproductive years. Within this, I focus on 1) the developmental period of adolescence as a time of vulnerability and opportunity in shaping women's health behaviors and health across the life course, 2) the intergenerational transmission of health and well-being from mothers to children, and 3) the intersection of education and health.

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Bertha A. Hidalgo, PhD, MPH

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Associate Scientist in the UAB Nutrition Obesity Research Center and Faculty Scholar in the Center for the Study of Community Health. I hold degrees from Stanford University, the University of Southern California and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. My research focuses on health disparities related to cardiometabolic diseases, with a special focus on Latino populations and genomics. I have received research funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Program to investigate whether genetic and epigenetic differences exist between

subgroups of Latinos for cardiometabolic diseases (e.g. obesity, cardiovascular disease, type-2

diabetes) by first investigating differences in subgroups of Latino children and obesity in an epidemiologic study. I've also received the 2014 Back of the Envelope award to create a multi-ethnic biorepository for cardiometabolic diseases.

Recently, I became the principal investigator of Epigenomics of Cardiometabolic Disease in Mexican Americans, a K01 award focused on better understanding the genetic and environmental contributors to cardiometabolic diseases in a cohort of Mexican Americans. I am also co-investigator on the UAB Strategically Focused Research Network center grant in Transgenerational Obesity to investigate the epigenetics of obesity across the lifespan. In addition to that work, I am site PI of the TOPMED Glycemic Traits and T2D analysis grant awarded to The Broad by NIDDK. I have also been a diversity supplement recipient, sponsored by UNC Chapel Hill and the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL), to explore genetic heterogeneity in Hispanic/Latinos with T2D and metabolic syndrome. My research interests include cardiometabolic diseases, genetic epidemiology, health disparities and Latino health.

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Jamila Kwarteng, MS, PhD

I am an Instructor and Academic Primary Care Research Fellow in the Institute for Health & Equity, Division of Epidemiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. I completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin and obtained my PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health, as well as an MS in Health Education from the University of Michigan-Flint. My research focuses on understanding how neighborhood environments and psychosocial stress shape racial inequities in obesity and breast cancer survival. As a member of the MCW Cancer Center Community Advisory Board's Prevention and Healthy Communities Workgroup (PHC), I plan to

collaborate with community partners to develop interventions that focus on eliminating health inequities in obesity and cancer survival in minority and economically disadvantaged communities.

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Maichou Lor, PhD, RN

I am a postdoctoral research fellow at Columbia University, School of Nursing in the T32 Reducing Health Disparities Through Informatics (5T32NR007969-10). I received my PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Nursing. My program of research is dedicated to improving communication in health care delivery and research settings through the use of visualization tools. Specifically my program of research focuses on improving communication on two areas. The first area is focusing on solving communication problems in the health care setting between patients and providers using visualization

tools as a solution to support communication of information and data, specifically focusing on patients who have low health literacy and/or are non-English speaking in health care delivery settings. My second area is focusing on solving communication problems, specifically to gathering data in research. My goal is to leverage applied informatics techniques to improve research data collection among

marginalized populations including non-English speaking and non-literate individuals, beginning with the Hmong population.

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[June McKoy, MD, MPH, JD, MBA](#)

I am an Associate Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and an academic geriatrician at Northwestern Medicine. I am committed to utilizing and interweaving research into daily practice in order to ensure better health for aging individuals living with cancer. A member of the Survivorship Institute of Northwestern University's Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chicago, I co-founded the Senior Oncology Outcomes Advocacy and Research (SOAR) program that translates research on cancer health measures into advocacy based interventions to improve health-related quality of life and survivorship for older individuals. I Co-

Lead the Community Engagement Core of Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (Chicago-CHEC), a National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded research initiative aimed at advancing health equity through meaningful scientific discovery, education, training, and community engagement. As an appointed member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's (NCCN) Senior Adult Oncology Panel, I work collaboratively with faculty from US-based comprehensive cancer centers to develop treatment guidelines for older individuals with cancer. I am also a member of the Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG) housed at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, and I advocate on behalf of patients living with cancer through her appointed membership on the NCI's National Council of Research Advocates (NCRA). I was recently named to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Geriatric Oncology (JGO).

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[Demetria M. McNeal, PhD, MBA, CPLP](#)

I am an academically trained health communication scientist with prior corporate healthcare experience as well as clinical experience. As a rising Dissemination & Implementation Scientist, my interests are to improve health equity within the African American community in diabetes and cardiovascular disease management and prevention. I strive to work with clinics and communities to implement evidence-based sustainable health interventions for people with diabetes and cardiovascular disease. I have dual appointments: Research Associate in the University of Colorado Adult and Child Consortium for Health Outcomes Research and Delivery

Science (ACCORDS) Center and the School of Public Health, Department of Health Systems Management & Policy, and HSR&D Fellow with Eastern Colorado Healthcare System.

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[Maria Mora Pinzon, MD, MS](#)

I am a board-certified Preventive Medicine and Public Health physician, currently serving as a researcher at the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute (WAI) and with the Community-Academic Aging Research Network (CAARN). My research field is dissemination and implementation (D&I) research, and its interactions with health equity. I am especially interested on the use of community-based participatory research and patient engagement in the development of new evidence-based programs that are culturally appropriate and sustainable.

I received my medical degree from the Universidad Central de Venezuela - Escuela Jose Maria Vargas, a master's degree in Clinical Research from Rush University (Chicago, IL), and I completed Preventive Medicine Residency at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2017. I also hold leadership positions in the Young Physician Section of the American College of Preventive Medicine and the National Hispanic Medical Association.

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[Erica Payton, PhD, MPH, CHES](#)

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Public Health Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I received my Bachelor's degree in Health Education and Promotion with a concentration in Community Health from East Carolina University in 2007. In 2011, I received my MPH in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention from Florida International University. Soon after completing my MPH, I gained an interest in teaching and research and decided to further my education by pursuing a PhD. I completed my PhD in health education from the University of Toledo in 2014. As a doctoral student, my research focus was

in the area of racial/ethnic health disparities, breast cancer prevention, firearm violence prevention and community engagement and empowerment. Before attaining my PhD, I worked as a public health educator for local health departments and non-profit organizations in North Carolina. I worked in many different areas in public health including: health promotion, teen tobacco prevention and women's and children's health.

My research agenda focuses on the prevention of firearm violence. Specifically on firearm violence prevention within institutions such as universities and secondary schools and community-level firearm violence among African Americans. I am particularly interested in assessing stakeholders' perceptions of the effectiveness of firearm violence prevention policies and other interventions.

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[Angelica Roncancio, PhD](#)

I am an Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston, TX. I earned my PhD from the University of Houston and completed a one-year postdoctoral fellowship in interdisciplinary research in women's health and at the University of Texas Medical Branch and a two-year NCI diversity supplement-funded fellowship in community-based participatory research methods in cancer prevention and control at the University of Texas School of Public Health. My primary research interests focus on the development and implementation of theory-based interventions for underserved Latino populations that will prevent cancer. I am currently developing an intervention for Spanish-speaking Latino mothers to encourage them to vaccinate their adolescent children against HPV. I employ mixed methods in my research and have recently begun learning more about dissemination and implementation science. The main goal of my research is to develop and widely disseminate evidence-based interventions that will reduce cancer related health disparities.

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[Bridget Weller, PhD, MSW](#)

I am an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at Western Michigan University. I earned my Ph.D. in social work from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I also hold a Master of Social Work degree from The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and participated in two clinical fellowships at Yale University. My experience as a mental health practitioner informs my research.

My research focuses on reducing and eliminating disparities in access, quality of care, and outcomes experienced by individuals with mental health disorders from historically underserved groups. More specifically, my research focuses on intervention efforts for black adolescents and their families. I also document the prevalence of disparities in mental health care across settings and investigate interventions that promote equity.

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