

Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI)



20th Anniversary Edition

Fall 2022
Newsletter

20th ANNIVERSARY



National Institute of
Diabetes and Digestive
and Kidney Diseases

20th

ANNIVERSARY
E D I T I O N

Celebrating 20 Years of Discovery:

NMRI's Journey of Success

In accordance with the NIH guidance to either postpone large meetings or transition to a virtual platform for public safety because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 NMRI Annual Meeting was held virtually.

20th ANNIVERSARY



A Message from Dr. Rodgers

This 20th Anniversary of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI, or the Network) marks a momentous milestone celebrating 20 years of discovery, thus NMRI's journey of success. As a signature program of the NIDDK, NMRI remains a vital avenue to advocate for minority researchers and meritorious research. Undoubtedly, the Network has inspired other NIH Institutes and Centers to establish similar programs. From its humble beginnings and first meeting in 2002, the NMRI has evolved into a network of more than 500 investigators from almost 50 universities and centers. The power of networking and collaboration to achieve outstanding results when combined with the appropriate follow-up must not be underestimated. The NIDDK supports the NMRI as a key element of its program for increasing biomedical workforce diversity. The Network currently has over 100 active members, of whom 21 percent are senior members. More than 700 members have attended the NMRI Annual Workshop during the past decade, and members have received several grants, had numerous publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, and been well represented at national and international conferences.

The NIDDK, through its integrated research programs, supports investigations into many diseases and conditions, including three of the most burdensome chronic diseases affecting Americans today—obesity, type 2 diabetes (T2D), and chronic kidney disease (CKD). These conditions, which can lead to a lifetime of pain and affliction and affect millions of Americans, are all associated with significant U.S. health disparities. Research must be conducted to determine why many of the diseases within the purview of NIDDK's mission are risk factors for and, in some cases, long-term complications of COVID-19. Additionally, the NIDDK must continue to support critical, pandemic-independent studies as they relate to the NIDDK mission of serving all stakeholders. Furthermore, the NIDDK must continue to investigate the role of social determinants of health (SDoH) and health disparities as drivers of chronic disease. The NIDDK remains committed to promoting health equity in chronic diseases and conditions in its mission to accelerate understanding how SDoH affect the biology of health and disease, for example.

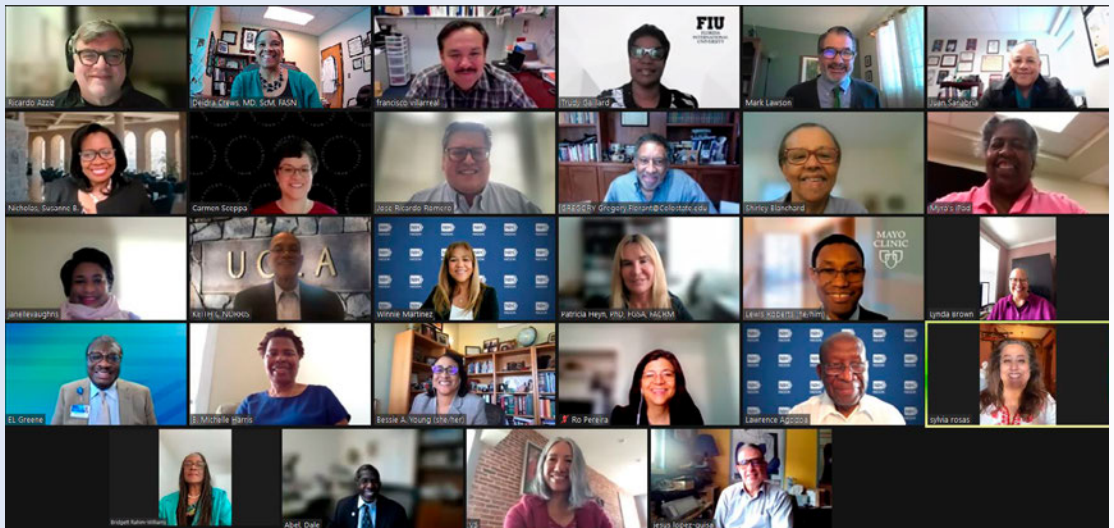
The NIDDK continues to support research training and career development programs for the next generation of biomedical researchers by building a ladder to traverse the many obstacles faced by junior scientists interested in research careers. NIDDK programs and activities that support critical moves from undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral study to junior faculty and independent faculty career levels include the early-stage investigator renewal bonus, "Life After K" workshop, and Diversity Supplement Program. Several NIDDK programs managed by the Office of Minority Health Resource Center (OMHRC)—such as the Short-Term Research Experience to Unlock Potential (commonly called STEP-UP) and NMRI—support students at these career levels. The NIDDK's OMHRC also has implemented the Professional Society Programs to Promote Diversity (R25) program, with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse individuals to pursue careers in the biomedical workforce that reflect NIDDK mission areas.

Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., MACP

Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institutes of Health

NMRI 20th Anniversary Medallion Award Presentations

At this anniversary workshop, the NIDDK is celebrating 20 years of success and honoring those members whose outstanding participation and commitment have fostered the Network's growth and activities. The NMRI Medallion Award celebrates outstanding contributions to NMRI and recognizes 10 years or more of exceptional performance, significant service contributions, and dedication to the Network based upon recommendations by the NIDDK and NMRI leadership. This award exemplifies an individual's highest commitment to improving our understanding of minority health while supporting the missions of the NIDDK and the NIH. Dr. Rodgers, accompanied by **Lawrence Y.C. Agodoa, M.D.**, Director, OMHRC, NIDDK, and **Winnie Martinez**, Program Officer, OMHRC, NIDDK, presented senior NMRI members with medallions in appreciation for their service.



Recipients of the NMRI Medallion Award, along with Dr. Lawrence Agodoa and Ms. Winnie Martinez. Missing from the photo: Dr. Isales and Dr. De León. (Photo courtesy of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Office of Minority Health Resource Center.)

Members receiving awards ranging from 17 to 10 years of service in the Network included—

Shirley Blanchard, Ph.D., Professor, Creighton University. Member since 2004 and active for 17 years.

Virginia Sarapura, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado. Member since 2003 and active for 17 years.

José Romero, Ph.D., Associate Physiologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Member since 2004 and active for 16 years.

Sylvia Rosas, M.D., M.S., Associate Professor of Medicine, Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School. Member since 2003 and active for 16 years.

Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, University of Washington. Member since 2003 and active for 16 years.

Mark Lawson, Ph.D., Professor, University of California, San Diego. Member since 2002 and active for 15 years.

Rocio Pereira, M.D., Chief of Endocrinology, Denver Health Medical Center. Member since 2005 and active for 15 years.

Lewis Roberts, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic. Member since 2005 and active for 15 years.

Ricardo Azziz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Chief Science and Strategy Officer, The Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center. Member since 2005 and active for 14 years.

Lynda Brown, Ph.D., Funding Director, Grants and Funding, Kingdom Funding Pathways. Member since 2005 and active for 14 years.

Deidra Crews, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine and Nephrology, Johns Hopkins University. Member since 2008 and active for 13 years.

Michelle Harris, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S., Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, University of the District of Columbia. Member since 2005 and active for 13 years.

Carlos Isales, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, Augusta University. Member since 2002 and active for 13 years.

Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University. Member since 2004 and active for 12 years.

Trudy Gaillard, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N., Associate Professor, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Florida International University. Member since 2008 and active for 12 years.

Bridgett Rahim-Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A., Assistant Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, University of North Florida. Member since 2006 and active for 12 years.

Daisy De León, Ph.D., M.S., Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Member since 2003 and active for 11 years.

Gregory Florant, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University. Member since 2002 and active for 11 years.

Patricia Heyn, Ph.D., M.S., Director, Marymount University Center for Optimal Aging. Member since 2010 and active for 11 years.

Myra Kleinpeter, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine. Member since 2011 and active for 11 years.

Jesus Lopez-Guisa, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S., Associate Professor, Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies, Seattle Children's Hospital. Member since 2005 and active for 11 years.

Keith Norris, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles. Member since 2005 and active for 11 years.

Juan Sanabria, M.D., M.S., Professor, Department of Surgery, Case Western Reserve University and Marshall University. Member since 2009 and active for 11 years.

Francisco Villarreal, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Diego. Member since 2009 and active for 11 years.

E. Dale Abel, M.D., Ph.D., Chair and Executive Medical Director, Department of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles. Member since 2002 and active for 10 years.

Eddie Greene, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Nephrology, and Hypertension, Mayo Clinic. Member since 2002 and active for 10 years.

Susanne Nicholas, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine and Nephrology, David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. Member since 2005 and active for 10 years.

Janelle Vaughns, M.D., Associate Professor, Anesthesiology and Clinical Pharmacology, Children's National Medical Center. Member since 2009 and active for 10 years.

Share Your Story

NMRI members were invited to participate in the “Share Your Story” segment for this special 20th anniversary edition of the NMRI newsletter. The following are their statements on the career impact of the Network, expectations from a participant’s perspective, and personal experiences that may be an inspiration to the general membership.



It is an honor to have been a member of NMRI since its inception over two decades ago. It has been a privilege getting to know the community of colleagues who serve as members of the NMRI and to have served as a mentor and role model. My strong commitment to the training and mentorship of investigators in diabetes, endocrinology, and metabolism aligns with the goals of the NMRI. As the principal investigator of the Endocrine Society’s R25 Future Leaders Advancing Research in Endocrinology (FLARE) award, I have partnered with the NMRI to identify mentors and prospective mentees for this career development program, which has mentored nearly 200 early-career faculty over the past decade. I continue to serve as a mentor to some active members of the

NMRI and was pleased to recruit an NMRI member, **Ayotunde Dokun, M.D., Ph.D.**, as a division chief at my former institution, The University of Iowa. Membership in the NMRI has been pivotal to my personal success and compels me to continue to pay it forward.

E. Dale Abel, M.D., Ph.D.

Chair and Executive Medical Director, Department of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles



NMRI is a gem. This community of generous and accomplished scholars offers a new entry intellectual home, where you can bring your whole self. NMRI offers a sense of connection and purpose that helped sustain me through the critical early years of my research career. This has been equally true during challenging times of professional transition, pandemic, and national social upheaval. It’s an honor and a privilege to continue as a member.

Susan Brown, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis



NMRI has provided me with a network of colleagues across the country who are dedicated to improving the health of socially marginalized communities and has served as a collective source of mentorship and sponsorship throughout my career.

Deidra Crews, M.D.

Professor, Department of Medicine and Nephrology, Johns Hopkins University

Share Your Story



NMRI has played an important role in my research development and career. As a recent graduate, I found that NMRI provided a safe space to present research ideas and receive valuable input and encouragement. I remember presenting my first poster and was very anxious and fearful of not answering questions correctly. The senior mentors asked very specific questions and provided insight on how to improve the research. That experience left me feeling so empowered that I could not wait to return my university to share the experience with others and invite them to join the Network. I have been a member of NMRI since 2008 and during this time have met fellow researchers who have become my colleagues and friends. What I value most from the Network is the relationships that have been nurtured over the years. I especially thank **Patricia Heyn, Ph.D., M.S.**, who has always inspired, encouraged, and motivated me to push forward. To Winnie and Dr. Agodoa, thank you for your dedication to the Network and all you have done to support minority researchers.

Trudy Gaillard, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N.

Associate Professor, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Florida International University



NMRI has provided me with a safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment for my career development and growth. NMRI values are anchored in leadership, fellowship, positivity, and citizenship. In my opinion, it is the NMRI family culture that makes it so special.

Patricia Heyn, Ph.D., M.S.

Director, Marymount University Center for Optimal Aging



I was initially introduced to the NMRI by member **Ariana Pichardo-Lowden, M.D., M.Ed., M.S.**, in 2018 when I joined Pennsylvania State University and was able to attend the annual meeting then. At the annual meeting, Dr. Pichardo-Lowden introduced me to two other amazing researchers and endocrinologists who also were NMRI members—**Leonor Corsino, M.D., M.H.S.**, and **Rocio Pereira, M.D.** Thanks to Dr. Pereira, I was motivated to apply and subsequently was selected to be part of the FLARE program in 2020. After my FLARE experience, more opportunities have opened for my career—many because of the NMRI. I strongly believe that the NMRI has empowered me to believe in my talents and my strengths and has also helped me to overcome the challenges of academia in my career as a physician-scientist because each NMRI leader and member empowers me, and all of them have been wonderful role models for me from the beginning.

There was a time during my career training in the United States when nobody looked like me in a room, and it was very hard to visualize myself in a future leadership position at that time. Now, I can see myself as a future leader because I know it is possible. And because I have learned that to be able to have a voice in a room where most people do not look like me, I need to be part of a stronger and larger group, and I am very grateful for the NMRI because I have always felt welcomed at the NMRI. I truly feel all the NMRI leaders are genuinely interested in our research and professional career growth.

Lina Huerta-Saenz, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University

Share Your Story



The networking in NMRI gave me confidence to pursue positions with administrative opportunities.

Elimelda Moige Onger, Ph.D.

*Professor and Dean, The John R. and Kathy R. Hairston College of Health and Human Sciences,
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University*



NMRI has significantly benefited my career via networking opportunities and learning in seminars. Also, I have learned how to collaborate with faculty from different disciplines and institutions.

Alexandra Perez Rivera, Pharm.D., M.S.

Associate Professor, Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy



Participation in the NMRI has been a transformative influence in my development and progress as a physician–scientist. NMRI has provided an intellectual, cultural, and spiritual home among like-minded persons who have served as a bulwark of support during the challenges that are an inherent part of the journey in translational science.

I have learned key lessons about the unwritten or hidden curriculum in science: the necessity and importance of persistence; the need for allies, mentors, and sponsors; the theoretical framework of modern biomedical science, embodied in the concept of strong inferential thinking; and the need for every scientist to have one or more “secret weapons” —

those techniques, resources, or reagents that distinguish you and your work and convince grant and manuscript reviewers not only that your work is important and significant but also that you and your research group are uniquely equipped to complete the work and disseminate the results.

I have learned about the importance of doing science with communities—not on communities—the primacy of teamwork as an instrument of all human accomplishment, and the enormous strengths of diverse teams, which bring together people of different backgrounds and perspectives to address our most important problems.

All this has been accomplished within a framework of autonomy, justice, equity, and mutual respect, which has afforded NMRI members opportunities to participate in the growth of the Network and feel a sense of ownership of the Network.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Agodoa, Ms. Martinez, and successive NIDDK Institute Directors, particularly Dr. Rodgers, for their initiative, creativity, and persistence in building and sustaining NMRI. May NMRI rise to even greater heights in the next 20 years than achieved in the first 20 years.

Lewis Roberts, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Medicine, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic



At the beginning of my NMRI career, I was able to meet and collaborate with women of color who do patient-centered research through the Black Women’s Research Network that was developed by a fellow NMRI investigator. Recently, I have not had many collaborations, but it is always great to network with scientists of color.

Nicole Wright, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

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Farewell to Dr. Agodea

Dr. Agodea announced his plans to retire from the NIDDK in 2022, noting that this will be his last Annual Workshop as OMHRC Director. He reflected on the Network over the years and its membership, some of whom have remained active since its inception and have been instrumental in establishing the NMRI Mentorship Program. This model of mentoring of junior members by the senior members was the first of its kind in the NIDDK. Dr. Agodea thanked the mentors for their efforts and the mentees, who have advanced from junior investigators or postdoctoral fellows to full professors and leaders of the Network. He addressed the new and junior investigators, underscoring how NMRI, with its present leadership and senior members, is poised to continue to achieve high goals and success.

Dr. Agodea remarked that NMRI has been one of the most important programs that the NIDDK has established since the formation of the OMHRC. The Network has taught many lessons about mentorship, particularly its value to career advancement. He conveyed his thanks to the NMRI members, especially those who have been on this journey for the past 20 years, and he hopes that the Network will continue to help junior faculty and other early-stage investigators climb the academic career ladder.

Thank You, Dr. Agodea: 35 Years of Leadership and Service to the NIDDK

Dr. Rodgers expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Agodea for his exceptional service and leadership in the NIDDK and for his insights and outstanding contributions that have advanced NIDDK's mission and made a significant impact on public health. He wished him the best on this exciting new chapter in his life. After more than 35 years of leadership and service to the NIDDK, Dr. Agodea is retiring from the NIH in 2022 and will return to his home in Seattle, Washington. "As he is a highly respected and valuable leader, Dr. Agodea's transition away from public service will be a great deficit to the organization of the NIDDK and the NIH," said Dr. Rodgers.

Dr. Agodea graduated the Cornell University Medical College, completed his internship and residency training in internal medicine at the University of Washington Hospitals, and continued training in clinical and basic research in nephrology and renal pathology. He once served as Chief of the Nephrology Service at the Madigan Army Medical Center and as Assistant Chief of the Nephrology Service and Nephrology Training Program at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dr. Agodea was an intramural research scientist at the NIDDK, NIH, and in his current role, he has helped numerous underrepresented minority researchers achieve their goals of becoming independent academic researchers. During his time at the NIDDK, Dr. Agodea had many accomplishments and spearheaded several initiatives, including establishing one of NIDDK's signature programs, the NMRI.

From across the Network



Thank you, Dr. Agodoa, for your vision to address inequality in minority health researchers at the NIH, thus creating a mechanism by which they could be nurtured and educated on the requirements and processes necessary to secure grant funding. Through NMRI, you and your leadership team have motivated, encouraged, and mentored underrepresented minorities into successful research and leadership careers. I am so happy that my mentor, **Kwame Osei, M.D.**, supported me to attend my first NMRI meeting. He told me that you were the person I should meet. He was correct! Dr. Agodoa, thank you for your countless words of advice, your letters of support, and your ability to always exhibit grace. As you retire, know that you will never be forgotten; your words of inspiration will always resound in my heart. Thank you for all you do. Enjoy your retirement!

*Trudy Gaillard, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N.
Associate Professor, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences,
Florida International University*



Dr. Agodoa and NMRI were instrumental in my career, as it provided me with early opportunities to participate in program committees initially as a member and later on as the Chair. I also had the opportunity to meet investigators that had similar interests, not only in research but had similar life experiences as mine. I have benefited from mentorship early on, and now I am proud to be a mentor for the next generation of NMRI members.

*Sylvia Rosas, M.D., M.S.
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School*



I appreciate you Dr. Agodoa, my NMRI mentor, for your tremendous help in enabling me to be successful in earning promotions and writing grant applications. I reflect on the importance of being a member of this Network. Thanks, Larry! You are so important to all of us!

*Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor, University of Washington*



You have done a marvelous job with this organization for many years. Congratulations. I am proud to have been involved myself.

*Glenn Chertow, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine*

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The NMRI members, joined by all attendees, applauded Dr. Agodoa for his dedication and work in establishing the Network and congratulated him on his retirement. Several accolades were posted in the chat; some are presented here.



A Snippet of Zoom Chats



Myra Kleinpeter, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor, Tulane University School of Medicine

Congratulations, Dr. Agodoa, on this visionary program promoting minority health research, mentorship, academic research careers, and leadership development.

Deidra Crews, M.D.

Professor, Johns Hopkins University

Congratulations, Dr. Agodoa! We will certainly miss you, but you have prepared us well to carry on this work as you enjoy a well-deserved retirement.



Janelle Vaughns, M.D.

Associate Professor, Children's National Medical Center

Thank you, Dr. Agodoa!

Perla Ontiveros-Ángel, Ph.D. Candidate

Loma Linda University

Great contribution to our community, Dr. Agodoa!



Bridgett Rahim-Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A.

Assistant Director, University of North Florida

Thank you, Dr. Agodoa, for the inspiration and support you've provided! You will be greatly missed.



20th Anniversary Keynote Address

In “Research to Create a Healthier World: Researchers, Research Questions, Advocacy,” **Claire Pomeroy, M.D., M.B.A.**, President, The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, highlighted the research needs and began with a moment of reflection on this unprecedented time of challenge for the world, nation, and medical researchers. In fact, as researchers are pursuing science, the devastating COVID-19 pandemic claims millions of lives; tragic deaths have thrust the realities of racial injustice to the forefront; and a war rages in Ukraine in Eastern Europe. Yet, in the midst of this pain, there is uplifting hope—which includes the NMRI, COVID-19 therapies developed at a rapid pace, the voices of researchers being raised to support social causes, and numerous donations received to support Ukrainian scientists. Questions remain whether this will be a better world and whether the lessons learned can position the nation to recover and create a more just and equitable world. From her perspective, Dr. Pomeroy believes these questions apply in powerful ways to medical research.

She proposed a three-point call to action medical researchers can consider to create a healthier world. First, pause and reflect on core values. Second, expand research priorities and approaches. Third, embrace community and social advocacy. Elaborating on these three points, Dr. Pomeroy emphasized that core values (guiding principles that dictate one’s beliefs, decisions, and actions) are rooted in childhood and shaped by life experiences. She reflected on her beginnings in a home full of abuse and fear, to which she escaped to the foster care system and African American foster parents, whom she credits with saving her life. Her new parents helped frame her core values of compassion, diversity, social justice, and caring for the vulnerable. These core values have shaped her personal life and research career. After completing internal medicine training, she worked in a clinic for girls and women with eating disorders. Recognizing the limited research in these illnesses, she collaborated on clinical trials of drug therapies and other treatments. She also undertook basic immunology laboratory investigations in her patients with anorexia nervosa.

This interest in the immune system led Dr. Pomeroy to pursue an infectious disease fellowship, and she completed this field of study while the HIV/AIDS epidemic was fully developing. Again, she cared for patients who were stigmatized by society and rejected by their families and friends. Medical research triumphed, and an inevitably fatal illness was turned into a chronic disease by the discovery of antiretroviral drugs. Dr. Pomeroy’s core values guided her research journey and today mandate further prioritization of these unmet research needs. She encouraged workshop participants to reflect and identify core values to help guide their research careers.

In closing, Dr. Pomeroy remarked on her belief that science and medical research are powerful tools for creating a healthier world and made several key points. It is up to each researcher to ensure that these tools are used to maximum effectiveness by reflecting on core values and having them guide their research journey. By expanding and broadening research priorities and approaches and communicating and advocating effectively about science, researchers can bring the wonder of science to help prevent disease, relieve suffering, and create health. Science can help us move from the limiting premise of health equality to research that drives true health equity, where everyone has what they need to have the greatest opportunity for health. Research can find critical answers to addressing the SDoH that are major drivers of health status. Researchers can bring science to bear to remove social barriers to health by taking intersectoral approaches that bring together medical researchers with experts and leaders in other fields. “With such a team, we can build a world where everyone is included in the research enterprise and where everyone reaps the benefit of the scientific endeavors,” said Dr. Pomeroy.



A Message from Dr. Agodoa

It was 20 years ago that the Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI) was established to address the pressing need to increase the representation of minority health researchers among National Institutes of Health (NIH) grantees. The Director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) took the lead in addressing the need for greater diversity in the biomedical research community by establishing the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination (OMHRC) in June 2000. The NIDDK formed the Network in 2022 to foster communication among biomedical research investigators and technical personnel interested in minority health research. Both the OMRHC and the NMRI are listed as important events in NIDDK history.

The NMRI continues to—

- Encourage minority health investigators to conduct research in areas related to NIDDK's mission, including diabetes; endocrinology; metabolism; digestive diseases; nutrition; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases.
- Promote two-way communication between the NIDDK and NMRI members.
- Recommend strategies to support and advance underrepresented individuals and others in biomedical research.
- Advance scientific knowledge and contribute to reducing and eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.

The Network provides its members opportunities to connect with researchers with common interests; receive advice on grant writing, submission, and evaluation in mock study sections; obtain mentorship from established senior members; and solicit review and feedback from senior members on specific aims. Other benefits include access to workshops focusing on academic promotion, academic coping skills, and manuscript writing, as well as opportunities for establishing collaborations across different disciplines.

Since 2002, more than 1,000 investigators have participated in NMRI workshops and meetings, and more than 100 are active members who attend each or every other year. Academicians and biomedical researchers who meet the requirements of NMRI are invited to become members.

Best wishes for a successful year of research, mentoring, and community!

Lawrence Y.C. Agodoa, M.D., FACP

Director, OMHRC, NIDDK, NIH

Awards and Accomplishments

E. Dale Abel, M.D., Ph.D., is William S. Adams Professor of Medicine, Chair and Executive Medical Director, Department of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). In 2022, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, selected as an International Society for Heart Research Fellow, and invited as a speaker at the 14th Annual Henry L. Brasza Lecture in Diabetes.

Emilyn Alejandro, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, was selected as a McKnight Presidential Fellow and received the 2022 American Physiological Society Henry Pickering Bowditch Award Lectureship.

Susan D. Brown, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis, received an NIDDK R01 to conduct a study on optimizing a scalable intervention to maximize guideline-recommended diabetes testing after gestational diabetes mellitus.

Leonor Corsino, M.D., M.H.S., Duke University School of Medicine, received the 2021 North Carolina Division of Public Health Award, 2021 North Carolina Diabetes Advisory Council Health Care Provider Award, and 2022 Duke School of Medicine Academic Leadership, Innovation, and Collaborative Engagement Award. She was the inaugural recipient of the Duke Department of Medicine 2022 Rising Star for Administrative Excellence Award.

Deidra C. Crews, M.D., Sc.M., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is the 2022 American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Executive Councilor and will serve as ASN President in 2024. She received an appointment as Master of the American College of Physicians.

Marissa DeFreitas, M.D., University of Miami, received an NIDDK Pediatric Research 2022 Loan Repayment Program Award.

T.J. Exford, Ph.D., North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State University, received a National Institute on Aging (NIA) Diversity Supplement Award to study the influence of mindfulness and stress (perceived and discrimination) on cognitive decline in African Americans and these relationships in the context of a physical activity intervention at Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

Trudy Gaillard, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N., is tenured Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Science, Florida International University, and was named the Vanessa Von Wertheim Endowed Chair in Chronic Disease Prevention and Care.

Patricia C. Heyn, Ph.D., M.S., began a new position as Director and Professor of the Center for Optimal Aging, Marymount University, and she received the 2022 NMRI Service Medallion Award, 2022 Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award from the Gerontological Society of America, and 2022 Outstanding Mentor Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Cristal M. Hill, Ph.D., M.S., Louisiana State University, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, will be Assistant Professor, University of Southern California, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology in 2023.

Lina Huerta-Saenz, M.D., Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), received a KL2 Award to study at the Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Janet Diaz Martinez, Ph.D., was selected as a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities 2022 Health Disparities Research Institute 2022 Scholar.

Dequina Nicholas, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, received a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) New Innovators Award.

START PLANNING:

Announcing the NMRI Mid-West
Regional Workshop, to be held
virtually

November 3–4, 2022

Elimelda Moige Onger, Ph.D., is Dean, John R. and Kathy R. Hairston College of Health and Human Sciences, North Carolina A&T State University. She is co-lead on an NIDDK U24 grant to establish the North Carolina Consortium for Diversity Career Development in Nutrition, Obesity, and Diabetes Research for mentoring underrepresented investigators in NIDDK focus areas. Scholars mentored under this award will be connected to NMRI for networking.

Alexandra Perez Rivera, Pharm.D., M.S., Nova Southeastern University (NSU) College of Pharmacy, received the 2022 NSU College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year Award.

Lewis Roberts, M.D., Ph.D., Mayo Clinic, was appointed member of the NIDDK Board of Scientific Advisors and was selected as Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Sylvia E. Rosas, M.D., M.S., Harvard Medical School, is President-elect of the National Kidney Foundation.

Juan Sanabria M.D., M.S., Case Western Reserve University and Marshall University, was elected to the Executive Committee of the American Board of Surgery.

Heather P. Tarleton, Ph.D., M.S., is Professor in the Department of Health and Human Services, Loyola Marymount University.

Ebele Umeukeje M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, received an NIDDK-sponsored R03 award in September 2021 for her project focusing on motivational strategies to improve dialysis adherence in African Americans, followed by an NIDDK-sponsored R01 award in September 2022 to advance these strategies in a clinical trial.

Nicole C. Wright, Ph.D., M.P.H., The University of Alabama at Birmingham, was selected Vice Chair of Academic Affairs and M.P.H. Program Director. She received her first NIH R01 grant that ranked in the 4th percentile.

Member Collaborations

NMRI scholars are encouraged to network and identify opportunities for junior and senior Network members to collaborate.

E. Dale Abel, M.D., Ph.D., William S. Adams Professor of Medicine, Chair and Executive Medical Director, Department of Medicine, UCLA, collaborated with organizers and was an invited speaker at the 14th Annual Henry L. Brasza Lecture in Diabetes.

Susan D. Brown, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis, was invited faculty at the Summer Institute on Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials supported by the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Deidra C. Crews, M.D., Sc.M., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, collaborated with **Keith Norris, M.D., Ph.D.**, UCLA, to co-chair the 2022 NIDDK Designing Interventions That Address Structural Racism to Reduce Kidney Health Disparities Workshop.

Samuel Dagogo-Jack, M.D., D.Sc., The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, was an invited speaker at the 12th Annual Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Research Day. **Lovoria Williams, Ph.D., M.S.N., B.N.**, University of Kentucky, and Dr. Dagogo-Jack collaborated on this activity.

Trudy Gaillard, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N., Florida International University, **Fern Webb, Ph.D., M.S.**, University of Florida, and **Donna Felber Neff, Ph.D.**, University of Central Florida, collaborated as co-principal investigators on an NIA-funded Florida Statewide Registry for Aging study. The goal is to better understand the intergenerational influence of the transfer of skills, attitudes, preferences, values, and behaviors that can be leveraged to recruit and retain culturally diverse (e.g., African American, Latino/Hispanic, or Caribbean) older adults into clinical research. Results of this research are currently being disseminated in the community.

Alexandra Perez Rivera, Pharm.D., M.S., NSU College of Pharmacy and **Youssef Roman, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, collaborated on the manuscript titled “Prevalence of Urate-lowering Therapy Use among Adults with Gout and Relationship between Gout Treatment Status and Associated Comorbidities.”

Lewis Roberts, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic, was speaker at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Spring Forum; he collaborated with **Bolni Marius Nagalo, Ph.D., M.S.**, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, on the topic.

Purpose of the NMRI Annual Workshop

Mentorship programs, such as the NMRI, act as beacons to attract new biomedical researchers to areas of research supported by the NIDDK. The first Annual NMRI Workshop was held shortly after the establishment of the Network, and then regional meetings were convened. The purpose is to connect senior and junior members of the Network and emerging health scientists from underrepresented minority groups to facilitate grant application development, navigate the tenure process, and learn how best to balance faculty commitments. The goals are to strengthen the mentor–mentee relationships and foster collaboration among members with similar research interests. The Annual Workshop also provides a forum for junior members and trainees to share their research and receive feedback from both their mentors and peers.

SAVE THE DATE:

Announcing the NMRI 21st Annual Workshop

April 19–21, 2023
Bethesda, MD

NMRI 20th Annual Workshop Sponsors

The NMRI would like to thank the professional societies that sponsored travel awards to the previous NMRI Annual Workshops. Due to COVID-19, the 2022 Workshop was held virtually, and no travel awards were issued.

Annual Workshop Travel Award

Attending the NMRI Annual Meeting is a great way to learn more about the Network. Scholarships are available to support attendance.

Are you a nephrologist or kidney researcher?

The ASN offers a limited number of travel awards to attend the NMRI Annual Workshop. Application materials are available on the ASN website: www.asn-online.org/grants/travel/nmri.aspx.

Never attended an NMRI workshop? Junior faculty member? Have an abstract to present?

Limited travel awards are available through the generosity of our professional society sponsors for eligible members to attend the NMRI Annual Meeting. For more information, contact Ms. Winnie Martinez, NIDDK, winnie.martinez@nih.gov.



Highlights of the NMRI 20th Annual Workshop follow. A full meeting summary is available via the NMRI member profile online portal or upon request. For more information, contact Ms. Winnie Martinez, NIDDK, winnie.martinez@nih.gov.

WELCOME

The NMRI met for its 20th Annual Workshop April 20–22, 2022, which was held virtually.

Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, University of Washington, and chair of the NMRI Planning Board, welcomed participants to this anniversary year of the annual workshop, the theme of which was “Celebrating 20 Years of Discovery: NMRI’s Journey of Success.”

Lawrence Y.C. Agodoa, M.D., FACP, Director, OMHRC, NIDDK, NIH, also welcomed participants and provided an overview of the NMRI. Participants, who introduced themselves via the chat, ranged from predoctoral and premedical students to tenured professors. Their research areas of study included diabetes mellitus, epidemiology, endocrinology, health disparities, hematology, nephrology, nutrition, and obesity.

Dr. Agodoa remarked that the Network is composed of current and potential biomedical research investigators and technical personnel interested in minority health research, including members from traditionally underserved communities. These include people from Black/African American, Latino/Hispanic American, American Indian and Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities. In addition, the Network supports junior and senior research investigators and works to mitigate many of the barriers junior investigators confront when pursuing careers in biomedical research (e.g., difficulty obtaining funding, lack of financial resources, lack of sufficient, adequate mentorship and role models).

Dr. Young highlighted opportunities to engage with the Network. An NMRI Community and Faith-Based Research (CFBR) Subgroup composed of researchers conducting studies in community- and faith-based settings provides a forum for conversations and research project writing collaboration. A COVID-19 Research Network Group (RNG) was established after the 2021 Annual Workshop, with researchers who are interested in current studies on COVID-19 and those actively conducting this research. The CFBR Subgroup and NMRI COVID-19 RNG met parallel to the 20th Annual Workshop.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

In concurrent sessions, the 20 poster presenters across the three categories (Basic, Clinical, and Translational) were invited to introduce themselves and to present their research. All speakers who presented posters at this year’s workshop were thanked for their time and willingness to share their research with the NMRI community. Senior NMRI members moderated the sessions: **Kirk Campbell, M.D.**, Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; **Rudy M. Ortiz, Ph.D., M.S.**, Professor, University of California, Merced; **Absalon Gutierrez, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Medicine, The University

of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; **Joseph Larkin, III, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, University of Florida; **Patricia C. Heyn, Ph.D., M.S.**, Director, Marymount University Center for Optimal Aging; **Ricardo Azziz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.**, Chief Science and Strategy Officer, The Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center; and **José R. Romero, Ph.D.**, Associate Physiologist, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Awards were presented for exemplary poster presentations in the areas of basic, translational, and clinical science. Congratulations to this year’s winners.

NETWORKING/COLLABORATION (CONCURRENT SESSIONS)

This session was designed to facilitate virtual networking and collaboration. Breakout rooms were organized by research groups that included clinical science research, basic research, and translational research. Moderators led introductions and fielded questions from participants regarding various research topics, methods, and potential collaborations:

Marja Hurley, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics, University of Connecticut Health; **Reneta Pereira, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, The University of Iowa; **Susanne B. Nicholas, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA; and **Ayotunde Dokun, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, The University of Iowa. The fourth breakout room, moderated by **Winnie Martinez**, Program Officer, OMHRC, NIDDK, NIH, was reserved for individuals to meet and discuss possible collaboration opportunities.

NMRI LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Ricardo Azziz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Chief Science and Strategy Officer, The Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center, spoke on the NMRI Leadership Excellence Academy for Diverse Executive Researchers (LEADER). He explained that the development of diverse and underrepresented executive leaders requires a systematic and focused progression, and minority faculty have unique needs. These leaders must develop skills to deal with ignorance and discrimination related to such elements as race, ethnicity, country of origin, and religion. They may have to overcome such language barriers as accents and learning the English language. Many come from nontraditional backgrounds—such as attending public or underserved schools or being first-generation immigrants—and have taken less traditional pathways, lack role models in their fields, and often encounter challenges related to cultural competency. All of these aspects must be considered in the development of diverse

leaders. **Patricia C. Heyn, Ph.D., M.S.**, Director, Marymount University Center for Optimal Aging, described the benefits of effective leadership mentoring for enhancing diverse leadership. She detailed the NMRI LEADER program, which has the goal of providing comprehensive and inclusive mentoring for individuals from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds who are interested in pursuing a leadership career in the biomedical sciences.

SPECIFIC AIMS REVIEW

After the first day of the workshop adjourned, junior investigators had the opportunity to participate in a special session with one of several senior NMRI investigators who had offered to serve as reviewers. During these meetings, reviewers and junior investigators discussed research proposal aims and scope.

MENTOR/MENTEE SESSION

Prior to the beginning of the second day of the workshop, Junior investigators had the opportunity to meet with one of several senior NMRI investigators who had offered to serve as mentors. During the session, each mentor met with his or her mentee to answer questions and give advice.

NMRI'S JOURNEY, LESSONS LEARNED AND PATHS FORWARD

Senior NMRI members (a college dean and an associate professor) and junior members (a postdoctoral researcher and an assistant professor) discussed their journeys to their current positions, funding barriers to career advancement, and the benefits of belonging to NMRI.

Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University, shared an inclusive leadership approach that she uses in mentoring and working with others. Key elements include commitment to the work based on values; courage to challenge the organizational status

quo and attitudes and practices to activate change; cognizance of bias and implementing policies and processes and structures to prevent it; curiosity, open-mindedness, and passion about learning; cultural agility, which is the way in which one responds to and understands cultural norms; and collaboration, which requires contributions from everyone on the team. As a clinician, educator, scholar, and mentor, Dr. Sceppa has learned from her mentors on this journey, some of whom are NMRI members. She remarked on how it was important to understand “the power of place,” both institutionally (work) and originally (home), during her journey.

Absalon Gutierrez, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, is a first-generation American; his family is originally from Nicaragua. He grew up in a small community and attended schools in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After completing medical school at The University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Dr. Gutierrez began an endocrinology fellowship and clinical research training program at Baylor College of Medicine. It was at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston he learned about and joined NMRI, built long-term relationships, and served in leadership positions. Dr. Gutierrez shared keys to moving a career path forward: Continue to seek mentorship and pay it forward by mentoring others. Allow the mentor–mentee relationship to grow over time. Stay focused on things you care about the most.

Cristal Hill, Ph.D., M.S., Postdoctoral Researcher, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Tuskegee University, received academic scholarships, and was a U.S. Department of Agriculture fellow. She completed her doctorate at Southern Illinois University and received postdoctoral training at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. Dr. Hill joined NMRI in 2017 and noted how its mentorship helped her work through barriers to funding. She provided some tips for creating a career path to establish professional goals: Network and be proactive as a NMRI member. Talk to your mentors, ask questions, and contact the NIH

and NIDDK program managers. Stay current on writing workshops sponsored by the NIDDK. Apply for internal funding at your respective institutions.

Mukoso N. Ozieh, M.D., M.S.C.R., Assistant Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin, is a first-generation Nigerian American who graduated from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Medical School in Nigeria in 2007. She moved to the United States in 2008 and began an internal medicine residency at Wright State University in 2010, which she completed in 2013. Dr. Ozieh was introduced to the NMRI by her primary mentor at MUSC and presented an abstract during the 2015 NMRI Annual Workshop. She recommended identifying a NMRI mentor to offer encouragement and personal development tips, discuss goal setting, provide advice on contract and salary negotiations, and provide input on sponsorship. For the path forward, she emphasized maintaining family and work balance, focusing on and paying attention to the things that matter the most, getting comfortable with being uncomfortable, and continuing to network and collaborate.

Interactive Parallel Discussions—Session I

Participants attended one of three breakout room discussions focused on various topics proving to be challenging to early-career academics, including career development funding opportunities, the NIH application process, and personnel issues. Breakout room four consisted of presentations from partner professional societies and organizations. Meeting participants attended the session of their choice. Moderators facilitated each breakout room discussion. The discussion leaders were **Absalon Gutierrez, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; **Jason Hoffert, Ph.D.**, Scientific Review Officer, Grants Review Branch, NIDDK, NIH; **Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, M.D., Ph.D.**, Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences,

Northeastern University; **Frank Hamilton, M.D.**, Program Director, NIDDK, NIH; **Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H.**, Professor, University of Washington; **Francisco Villarreal, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor, University of California, San Diego; **Mark Roltsch, Ph.D.**, Health Science Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and **Kirk Campbell, M.D.**, Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Interactive Parallel Discussions—Session II

Session II provided participants the opportunity to switch discussion rooms. Breakout Session 4 featured different presenters in Session I and Session II.

ROLES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Workshop participants heard about the roles and activities of scientific societies and professional organizations that are important to the work of the NMRI.

Mary Boussein, Ph.D., President-elect, American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR), stated that membership benefits include online access to the ASBMR publications (*Journal of Bone and Mineral Research [JBMR]*, *JBMR Plus*, and *Primer on the Metabolic Bone Diseases and Disorders of Mineral Metabolism*) and a grant program that provides travel awards for individuals to train in different laboratories and to generate pilot data for new grant funding. **Rhonda Prisby, Ph.D., M.A.**, Chair, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, ASBMR, explained that the Diversity in Bone and Mineral Research Committee will continue hosting the member Spotlight Series, sponsoring webinars that highlight NIH diversity grant supplements, organizing the annual Pulse Check webinar, and hosting member listening sessions on timely diversity and inclusion topics. In addition, the Committee also will continue implementing the Underrepresented Minority Mentorship Award to increase networking and mentorship opportunities and active participation and representation of underrepresented minority scientists to attend the ASBMR annual meeting. Dr. Prisby highlighted that the ASBMR

is introducing the Underrepresented Scientists Proposal Pilot Program, which pairs mid-level and senior-level underrepresented investigators close to realizing their first NIH R01 with investigators who have a proven history of R01 funding.

Susan E. Quaggin, M.D., President, ASN, acknowledged NMRI members who were leaders in the ASN. She noted that the ASN Diversity and Inclusion Committee became official in 2017, and NMRI members have and continue to serve as chair. The Committee engages in a number of projects and activities, including hosting annual diversity and inclusion events virtually at ASN's Annual Meeting and Kidney Week and providing travel awards to NMRI Workshop participants. In 2021, the Committee launched an ASN Loan Mitigation Program and provided representation in the ASN–National Kidney Foundation Joint Task Force charged to examine removing race from the clinical algorithm that estimates kidney function. The ASN supports career development for kidney professionals at all levels of training. These include the Kidney Students and Residents at Kidney Week Travel Award, Kidney Tutored Research and Education for Kidney Scholars Award, the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program Award, and the William E. Mitch International Scholars Program Travel Award. The ASN also supports early-career professionals through career development grants, the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP) Award.

Jennifer S. Pollock, Ph.D., President, American Physiological Society (APS), announced that the Society launched the American Physiology Summit and is establishing the Center for Physiology Education to promote excellence in teaching physiology. She highlighted some of the APS's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, including a webinar series and grant and foundational support (e.g., Porter Physiology Fellowship). The APS sponsors other awards and fellowships, including the Marty Frank Diversity Travel Award, Horvath Research Recognition Award, A. Clifford Barger Underrepresented Minority Mentorship Award, and Dependent Support Travel Award. The APS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and

Women in Physiology Committee select award winners and plan mentoring and networking sessions at annual meetings. Membership in the APS has many benefits, including free access to online research, journals, specialized content, and electronic books; on-demand learning; and webinars.

Rocio Pereira, M.D., Board of Directors, Endocrine Society, explained that the Society's peer-reviewed publications include *Endocrine Reviews*, *Endocrinology*, the *Journal of the Endocrine Society*, and the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*. The Endocrine Society convenes an annual meeting (ENDO) and hosts education and training programs, including the Clinical Endocrinology Update and Endocrine Board Review. The Society training and education opportunities include continuing medical education credits and maintenance of certification points, Fellows Training Series, and Type 1 Diabetes Fellows Series. In 2021, the Society launched a new online Center for Learning, which has the Endocrine Self-Assessment Program™ (commonly called ESAP™). The Society's awards program spans all career levels and consists of ENDO travel awards, scientific achievement awards, summer research fellowships, and student and early-career awards. In addition, one of the Society's diversity initiatives is the NIDDK-sponsored FLARE program to support training in endocrine research for underrepresented minorities. A parallel program for clinicians, Excellence in Clinical Endocrinology Leadership (commonly called EXCEL), supports comprehensive leadership training and mentorship to early-career physicians from communities underrepresented in medicine and science. The Endocrine Society's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, formerly the Minority Affairs Committee, works to increase diversity within endocrine science and medicine.

NIH FACULTY INSTITUTIONAL RECRUITMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION (FIRST) PROGRAM

Charlene E. Le Fauve, Ph.D., Senior Advisor to the Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, NIH, provided an overview of the NIH Common Fund initiative [Faculty Institutional](#)

[Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation \(FIRST\)](#). The purpose of FIRST is to transform the culture at NIH-funded extramural institutions and provide support for these institutions to implement, enhance, and sustain cultures of inclusive excellence. Institutions are provided support to recruit and hire a diverse cohort of early-career faculty in clusters of no less than three. Dr. Le Fauve highlighted the challenges and need for a transformative workforce support. Underrepresented minorities are being awarded doctoral degrees, but many are not being hired at academic institutions. Many of those who are hired report feeling a sense of isolation and lack of trust in work relationships compared to their nonminority counterparts. In addition, academic institutions lack the necessary elements of inclusion and equity in science. Dr. Le Fauve credited then-NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Dr. Hannah A. Valentine, who proposed the FIRST concept. Dr. Le Fauve remarked that Dr. Valentine recognized that to retain or even recruit staff, institutions need to support their staff, and staff need to see others like themselves in the institutions. FIRST consists of two components: a Faculty Cohort (U54) managed by the National Cancer Institute and a Coordination and Evaluation Center (U24) managed by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The program sponsors 12 staggered 5-year awards (i.e., four awards annually). Further details can be accessed from the NIH website.

NIH MOCK STUDY SECTION PARALLEL SESSIONS

This session provided the opportunity for participants to attend mock study sessions for different types of NIH awards—R01 Basic/Clinical, K01 Basic/Clinical, and R21 Basic/Clinical. During these sessions, session leaders reviewed and critiqued sample grant applications. Meeting participants attended the session of their choice. The discussion leaders were **Ryan Morris, Ph.D.**, Scientific Review Officer, Grants Review Branch, NIDDK, NIH; **José R. Romero, Ph.D.**, Associate Physiologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School; **Jason Hoffert, Ph.D.**, Scientific Review Officer, Grants Review Branch, NIDDK, NIH; and **Mark A. Lawson, Ph.D.**, Professor, University of California, San Diego.

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

The workshop's four scientific presenters, who were selected from the pool of submitted abstracts, were announced and presented with plaques commemorating their achievements. These abstract winners were given the opportunity to present their research during the NMRI Annual Meeting. **Patricia C. Heyn, Ph.D., M.S.**, Director, Marymount University Center for Optimal Aging, moderated the session, introduced the speakers, and invited them to present their research, which is summarized here. Full abstracts are contained in the 2022 NMRI Annual Meeting Program book and are available upon request from NIDDK Program Officer Ms. Winnie Martinez at winnie.martinez@nih.gov.

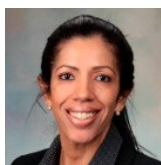


Janet Diaz Martinez, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Associate, Florida International University, "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) among Hemodialysis Patients"

Dr. Janet Diaz-Martinez discussed racial and ethnic differences in NLR among hemodialysis (HD) patients. The objective of this study was to evaluate racial and ethnic disparities in NLR in HD patients. Increased understanding of these relationships could be translated into clinically meaningful assessments and relevant recommendations to improve the well-being of patients living with HD. This study enrolled a cohort of 77 HD patients in southern Florida. Data on race and ethnicity, age, gender, years in dialysis, body mass index, albumin, and NLR were collected. Dr. Diaz-Martinez found that Black patients had a lower NLR and more years in dialysis than Hispanic, white, and Caribbean patients. Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that Black patients were 3.94 times more likely to have a low adjusted NLR than patients in other groups. The association was strengthened when compared with white patients only. She concluded that racial differences exist in the inflammatory response that could explain the "survival paradox" in Black patients. Further extensive studies, however, are needed to understand the complex interplay of factors influencing HD patient mortality among various racial and ethnic group populations.

How has the NMRI helped your career?

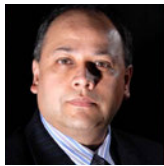
- The NMRI has been so beneficial for me.
- The Network can connect NMRI alumni to collaborate on meaningful research.
- The networking opportunities and guidance from NMRI colleagues have been invaluable to me.



Patricia Hernandez, M.D., Resident Physician, Washington University in St. Louis, "Peri-pregnancy Timing of Infection by SARS-CoV-2 in Women Affects Pregnancy Outcomes and Placental Pathology"

Dr. Patricia Hernandez presented a retrospective, single-center study that evaluated how peri-pregnancy timing of SARS-CoV-2 infection affects pregnancy outcomes and placental pathology. This study was conducted through Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis between April 2020 and September 2021. The study population was composed of women who were tested for SARS-CoV-2 infection by nasopharyngeal swabs and real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction, during or prior to pregnancy. The study population was composed of five groups: positive test, pre-conception (T0); positive test, first trimester (T1); positive test, second trimester (T2); positive test, third trimester (T3); and negative test (TC). The results revealed that the timing between testing and delivery or pregnancy loss was greatest for Groups T0 and T1. In addition, the timing of SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy affected maternal and neonatal outcomes, as well as placental pathology. Dr. Hernandez noted the following conclusions: (1) The study showed that timing of SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy affects outcomes and placental pathology; (2) pre-conception SARS-CoV-2 infection is associated with worse gestational outcomes; (3) SARS-CoV-2 infection prior to or during early pregnancy is associated with higher rates of maternal vascular malperfusion and accelerated villous maturation; and (4) these findings could impact public health, with potential high-risk

pregnancy management for those who had pre-conception COVID-19 infection.



Juan Sanabria, M.D., M.S., Professor, Case Western Reserve University and Marshall University, “Normalization of the A-1NA/K-ATPASE Signalosome Rescinds Epigenetic

Modifications in Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)”

Dr. Juan Sanabria summarized his research on epigenetic modifications (e.g., methylation) in NASH-related HCC, which have been associated with consistent increase in end-stage liver disease (ESLD). His study aimed to demonstrate that hepatic alpha-1 Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase signaling pathway is critical in the context of NASH progression to ESLD and HCC. The purpose was to determine the association of the epigenetic changes in cellular oxidation-reduction status and metabolic disturbances during NASH progression. The central hypothesis was that the growing uncoupled metabolism during NASH progression to HCC is manifested by the lower cellular oxidation-reduction status and apoptotic switch activity, which follows disarrangement on the wild-type alpha-1 Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase signalosome with downregulation of the alpha1 subunit, promoting epigenetic changes that result in decreased cell autophagy activity and silencing of the FoxO1 circuit. The work involved use of human HCC cell lines, severe combined immunodeficient mice xenografts, STAMTM mouse HCC models, and human liver tissue from resected patients. The pNaKtide, which blocks Src-alpha-1 Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase interaction, and a “scramble” peptide, also were used. Endpoints were measured using confocal immunofluorescence, Western blots, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

Dr. Sanabria and his colleagues demonstrated that normalization of the alpha-1 Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase signalosome significantly decreased histone acetylation and trimethylation. This effect is associated with upregulation of the alpha-1 subunit expression. Furthermore, normalization of alpha-1 Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase signalosome significantly decreased tumor size by increasing apoptosis in the treated group; this effect is associated with decreased Survivin expression and protein carbonylation. pNaKtide significantly decreased glutathione, histone acetylation,

and protein carbonylation in the tumor tissue of the treated group. The tumor histological changes were associated with a significant upregulation of the alpha-1 subunit in the treated group. pNaKtide also upregulated alpha-1 Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase and downregulated Survivin expression in the xenograft tumors of the treated mice. Results were consistent with the *in vivo* model, and evaluations in animal models and in humans are ongoing.



Pablo Garcia, M.D., Transplant Nephrology Fellow, Stanford University, “SARS-CoV-2 Booster Vaccine Response among Patients Receiving Dialysis”

Dr. Pablo Garcia reported on his research investigating responses to the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine booster doses among dialysis patients that leveraged his previous studies. The premise is that patients receiving dialysis have an increased risk of COVID-19-associated mortality, compared with the general population. The objective of this study was to determine booster dose results among patients receiving dialysis. Dr. Garcia partnered with Satellite Healthcare, a nonprofit dialysis provider. The provider implemented monthly testing for SARS-CoV-2 receptor-binding domain (RBD) antibodies from February to April 2021 and quarterly thereafter. Beginning in late September 2021, the provider offered in-facility mRNA vaccine boosters to patients. In cases in which more than one antibody result was available, Dr. Garcia used maximum antibody results within 14 to 60 days. He used multinomial logistic regression to obtain estimated margins of response level. Antibody response levels were measured using semiquantitative RBD IgG assays. The response was categorized as an antibody index value (i.e., <10, 10–23, and >23). The patient groups were similar in terms of age and gender, as well as diabetes status. Dr. Garcia presented the following conclusions: (1) A robust response to the booster dose was observed; (2) in the immediate booster period, more than 95 percent of patients achieved an antibody index value associated with enhanced protection against SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infection; and (3) a third dose of mRNA vaccine is effective in providing high levels of antibody among older patients, who are not protected uniformly after the initial vaccine series.

NMRI Leadership for Tomorrow

Three senior NMRI members and mentors, who are leaders at their respective institutions, shared their career journey and lessons on leadership.

Lewis Roberts, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, shared experiences from his upbringing in the Republic of Ghana (Ghana) and the early influences of his parents, from whom he learned that education counts, family counts, individual responsibility matters, and helping others is important. In the context of leadership, he thinks it is important to bring your values with you, because those are the things that help the most when you make your most critical decisions. After completing the University of Ghana Medical School, he attended graduate school at The University of Iowa, and transitioned to clinical research at the Mayo Clinic. He emphasized that having a leadership role allows you to influence what happens at your institution. He shared that his position as Director of the Career Enhancement Program in the Mayo Clinic Hepatobiliary Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (commonly called SPORE) has allowed him to help recruit, train, and support a diverse group of researchers, locally and internationally.

Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, University of Washington, remarked on being the only female entering the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1983; one of two African American females in the 1987 graduating class; and, initially, the only African American during her internship and residency. She highlighted that the NMRI has had a strong impact on her career trajectory. Dr. Young did her residency in general internal medicine and completed a rotation in nephrology. Her success in promotions and research funding she partially credits to Dr. Agodoa, her NMRI mentor, who provided tremendous help in grant writing instruction and training for various applications. In closing, Dr. Young shared that mentorship, teaching,

clinical work, grants, manuscripts, national involvement, and volunteer work are all important for success in academia. She encouraged participants, especially new investigators, to discover and pursue their passions, find several good mentors for all different aspects of life, find a good sponsor who would be a support locally and nationally, and develop guiding principles and remain true to them.

Sherita Hill Golden, M.D., M.H.S., Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Johns Hopkins Medicine, described her journey to leadership. She grew up in Maryland, with family ties to rural Virginia and South Carolina. She took a strong interest in medicine and science in elementary school, and after completing high school, she attended the University of Maryland at College Park. She was a first-generation college graduate. She attended the University of Virginia School of Medicine, specializing in internal medicine. Dr. Golden continued at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and began a fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism. She was promoted to professor and became the Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine in 2015. Dr. Golden remarked on being a department leader and parent during the time of the Freddie Gray riots in Baltimore and leading the launch of “Journeys and Medicine: Engagement Innovation Series” to discuss implicit bias and community perception. This resulted in a department-wide civic engagement initiative to raise awareness of health inequities, aiming to avert future tragedies. She shared some lessons she learned from her journey, including examples of mentoring and community engagement.

DESIGNING INTERVENTIONS THAT ADDRESS STRUCTURAL RACISM TO REDUCE KIDNEY HEALTH DISPARITIES (REPORT FROM THE NIH/NIDDK CONFERENCE)

Keith Norris, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, UCLA, and **Raquel Greer, M.D., M.H.S.**, Program Director, Kidney Health Equity, Division of Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases, NIDDK, NIH, provided an overview of the NIDDK Designing Interventions That Address Structural Racism to Reduce Kidney Health Disparities workshop held in February 2022 and reviewed some background to the workshop. Some of the NMRI members participated on the organizing committee for this workshop. Dr. Norris noted that the workshop objectives were twofold: Describe the mechanisms through which structural racism contributes to health care disparities for people along the continuum of kidney diseases, and identify actionable research recommendations for interventional research. He continued that achieving health equity requires addressing structural racism. Achieving health equity for people with kidney disease necessitates interventions that are designed for all levels, particularly upstream approaches that aim to dismantle structural racism, as well as effective, sustainable, and scalable interventions to mitigate the adverse social determinants of health that result from structural racism. Dr. Greer reviewed some key themes of the recommendations for future research, including promoting developing structural interventions that target factors at multiple levels, adapting models that work in other settings and diseases, and advancing health equity through new health care models.

UPDATES FROM THE NETWORK OF MINORITY HEALTH RESEARCH INVESTIGATORS

Planning Board

Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, University of Washington, provided a brief overview of the Planning Board and its activities. This Board consists of 10 members who serve a 2-year term that ends at the Annual

Workshop. The Planning Board organizes the Annual Workshop, identifies speakers and topics, facilitates engaging new members to attend the workshops, promotes interactivity of the NMRI and its membership with other relevant scientific societies, and facilitates the development of active mentoring relationships between senior and junior members of the network. She acknowledged the 2021–2022 Planning Board and encouraged members to sign up for leadership roles in the Network.

Absalon Gutierrez, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Chair-elect, NMRI Planning Board, encouraged members to complete the evaluation survey, increase awareness of the Network among their peers and home institutions, and share news of accomplishments and personal anecdotes to be included in the 2022 NMRI Newsletter.

Oversight Board

Marja Hurley, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics, UConn Health, explained that the Oversight Board facilitates the development of active mentoring relationships between senior and junior members of the Network; engages in advocacy for funding; recruits new members; and coordinates with professional societies and organizations to facilitate informal gatherings at scientific conferences, such as the NMRI Annual Workshop. She acknowledged current members of the Board and encouraged participants to consider joining. **Rudy M. Ortiz, Ph.D., M.S.**, Chair-elect, 2023 NMRI Oversight Board Professor, University of California, Merced, noted some short-term goals. In 2022–2023, the Board plans to increase membership, actively recruit more ESIs and trainees, establish sound partnerships with many professional societies and foster new relationships, and initiate and integrate a trainee committee.

Shirley Blanchard, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Creighton University, *ad hoc* member, Oversight Board, explained that the Oversight and Planning Boards designed a survey to evaluate the NMRI program. The survey (available in both paper and electronic formats) was administered from 2008 to 2018. Results revealed that of the members who attended meetings and workshops, 34 percent were senior members and 66 percent were junior members. Dr. Blanchard highlighted the 2022 survey demographics, noting that the

trends were similar to the 2021 data. The highest survey participation remain among the 31–45 age group followed by the 46–55 age group. The highest degree categories were Ph.D. and M.D., and career status of assistant and associate professors were nearly equal.

Virginia Sarapura, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado, *ad hoc* member, Oversight Board, provided an overview of the NMRI Mentorship Program, noting its accomplishments. The purpose of the program is to identify mentors for junior NMRI members who need help to accomplish a goal. Mentors can help with publications, grants, promotions, and work–life balance. The selection process involves two approaches. At the time of meeting registration, (1) junior NMRI members can request a mentor from a previous NMRI meeting or from the NMRI Directory, or (2) senior NMRI members can volunteer to be mentors. According to survey data and NMRI Annual Workshop participation, the Mentorship Program is the second-highest reason to attend the NMRI meeting. The mentorship advice is quoted by 15 percent as being beneficial for promotion and tenure. A total of 50 members serve as mentors in the program.

NMRI CFBR Subgroup Update

Marino A. Bruce, Ph.D., M.Div., M.S.R.C., Professor, University of Mississippi Medical Center, presented the CFBR Subgroup report and acknowledged Co-chair **Lynda Brown, Ph.D.** The Subgroup met on April 20, 2022,

just prior to the first day of this Annual Workshop, and discussed updates. A September 2022 virtual meeting is being planned, with the date to be announced. The topic of that meeting will focus on helping researchers who are less experienced (e.g., early-career faculty, postdoctoral fellows) develop a strategy for obtaining funding for CFBR. The idea is to convene a panel of experts from the NIH and other federal agencies who have some experience in their research portfolios that includes community- and faith-based work. This panel would discuss funding sources and strategies for grant applications. For April 2023, a pre-NMRI Annual Workshop CFBR Subgroup meeting is being considered.

CLOSING REMARKS

NIDDK Director Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., MACP, thanked participants for supporting the workshop and noted that he is looking forward to the 2023 event, which is tentatively planned as an in-person workshop. **Lawrence Y.C. Agodoa, M.D., FACP**, Director, OMHRC, NIDDK, NIH, and **Winnie Martinez**, Program Director, NIDDK, NIH, thanked participants for attending the 20th NMRI Annual Workshop. Ms. Martinez reminded members to complete the evaluation and to update their NMRI profiles to keep the Network Directory current and accurate. She announced that the NMRI 2022 Midwest Regional Workshop is being planned for fall 2022, and the platform is to be determined. The workshop was adjourned.

Why did you attend the NMRI 20th Annual Workshop?

- I made some great connections that have already begun to materialize into collaborations.
- It's always nice to meet new people and network to build collaborations.
- Really great setting for networking.
- Excellent opportunity to learn.

NMRI Leadership Opportunities

The NMRI Planning and Oversight Boards offer opportunities to become more involved in the Network. Annual and regional planning committees are responsible for planning all aspects of upcoming meetings, from identifying speakers to setting agendas. The Oversight Board facilitates the development of mentoring relationships, the identification of new members, and the recruitment of professional organizations to support the network. These boards are [described in detail](#) on the NMRI website.

Another opportunity to become involved in the Network is the CFBR Subgroup that is composed of researchers conducting studies in community- and faith-based settings. Individuals must be a NMRI member or have attended a NMRI meeting in the past 3 years to join this Subgroup. For more information, contact Ms. Winnie Martinez, NIDDK, winnie.martinez@nih.gov.

The NMRI on the Web

The NMRI website contains several resources for members:

- **NMRI workshops and meetings:** Upcoming NMRI events are announced at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/research-programs/diversity-programs/network-minority-health-research-investigators-nmri>. Please visit this site for additional information about future meetings and access to past meeting reports, presentations, and other resources.
- **Resources for junior investigators and mentoring and career development:** Information about the funding process, tips for reviewers, and mentoring and career development resources—including for the fields of endocrinology and hematology—are available at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/research-programs/diversity-programs/network-minority-health-research-investigators-nmri/member-resources>.

The 2022 NMRI Membership Directory:

Contact information for NMRI members is provided and available upon request. For more information, contact Ms. Winnie Martinez, NIDDK, winnie.martinez@nih.gov.

- **The NMRI Mentor/Mentee Program:** This program gives young investigators the opportunity to work closely with senior investigators in research areas of interest to both the mentor and mentee. Forms to sign up to be a mentor or mentee can be

requested at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/research-programs/diversity-programs/network-minority-health-research-investigators-nmri/mentor-mentee-program>.

- **The NMRI newsletter:** Previous editions are available at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/research-programs/diversity-programs/network-minority-health-research-investigators-nmri/newsletters>.

NMRI Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for NMRI membership?

NMRI membership is available only to investigators who are—

- At the postdoctoral level or higher
- Interested in minority health research, including individuals from traditionally underserved communities (African American, Hispanic American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders)
- Conducting research in diabetes; endocrinology; metabolism; nutrition; or digestive, kidney, urologic, or hematologic diseases
- U.S. citizens or individuals with permanent resident status

Medical students from underrepresented minority groups are welcome to attend NMRI meetings if they are conducting research in one of the NIDDK mission areas noted above.

How do I apply for membership?

Individuals who qualify should apply for membership on the [NMRI History and Mission Website](#). Please click the “NMRI Online System” link to create an account and apply for membership.

Whom do I contact with questions about the NMRI?

Direct your questions or comments to NMRI Program Officer Ms. Winnie Martinez, who oversees the NMRI, at winnie.martinez@nih.gov.

Does the NMRI have a website with more information?

The NMRI maintains and frequently updates its [main website](#). The website contains information about the NMRI, including meeting announcements, and NIDDK funding opportunities. Summary reports from past NMRI meetings can be accessed from the NIDDK Meetings and Workshops web page.

How can I find a mentor if I am an NMRI member?

The NMRI Oversight Board, which created the NMRI Mentor Program, maintains a list of NMRI members who have volunteered to serve as mentors. The biographies and research interests of NMRI members are listed in the NMRI Membership Directory available by request.

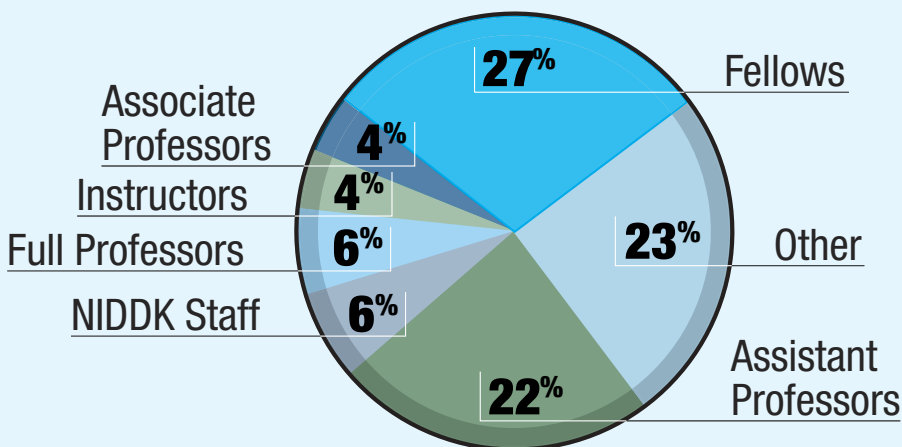
How do I sign up to be a mentor if I am an NMRI member?

If you are a member and would like to volunteer as a mentor, go to the NMRI Mentor/Mentee Program page and request the Mentee form found at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/research-programs/diversity-programs/network-minority-health-research-investigators-nmri/mentor-mentee-program>.

SNAPSHOT OF THE NMRI

Established in 2002, the NMRI is 700 members strong and growing. The NMRI 20th Annual Meeting attracted more than 80 attendees from across the biomedical research community. Many of the attendees were new NMRI members, and many of those were K awardees. The attendees came from all levels of the biomedical research community:

Snapshot of NMRI Attendees



NMRI Members Are a Vital Force in the Biomedical Research Community

We know about the 2022 NMRI Annual Workshop attendees, but we would like to update the career progress that has been made by all of our members. NMRI members, please complete the NMRI Questionnaire <https://www.scgcorp.com/NMRISurvey/> and update your NMRI profile for the NMRI directory so we can analyze how the careers of our membership and our members' impact on the biomedical research community have grown over the Network's 20-year history.

NMRI 20th Annual Workshop Poster Abstracts

The posters submitted for presentation at the NMRI 20th Annual Workshop represented outstanding research conducted at a broad range of academic institutions. The poster authors and titles are listed below. Abstracts are available in the 2022 NMRI Annual Meeting Program book. To obtain a copy, contact NIDDK Program Officer Ms. Winnie Martinez at winnie.martinez@nih.gov.

Ahmed Al Saedi, Lauryn Schaddee Van Dooren, Ali Ghasem-Zadeh, Nicholas Giourmas, Chris Hall, Alan Hayes, Damian Myers, Craig Goodman: "Effect of Spermidine on Bone Health in a Model of Muscular Dystrophy"

Sherri-Ann M. Burnett-Bowie, Jessica A. Zeidman, Alexander E. Soltoff, Kylee T. Carden, Aisha K. James, Katrina A. Armstrong: "Attitudes and Actions Related to Racism: The Anti-Racism (ARC) Survey Study"

Marcelo Correia, Joshua Peterson, Cally Tucker, Renata Periera, E. Dale Abel: "ER-stress Inhibition Protects C57 Mice from High-fat Diet-induced Weight Gain"

Janet Diaz-Martinez, Ivan Delgado-Enciso, Robbert Langwerden, Michelle Hospital: "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) among Hemodialysis Patients"

Jorge L. Gamboa, Javier Jaramillo-Morales, Elvis Akwo, Baback Roshanravan, T. Alp Ikizler: "Branched-chain Amino Acids and Skeletal Muscle Function in Patients with Moderate to Advanced Kidney Disease"

Pablo Garcia, Jialin Han, Maria Montez-Rath, Sumi Sun, Tiffany Shang, Julie Parsonnet, Glenn Chertow, Shuchi Anand, Graham Abra, Brigitte Schiller: "SARS-CoV-2 Booster Vaccine Response among Patients Receiving Dialysis"

Patricia Hernandez, Ling Chen, Ray Zhang, Ronald Jackups, Donald Nelson, Mai He: "Pregnancy Timing of Infection by SARS-CoV-2 in Women Affects Pregnancy Outcomes and Placental Pathology"

Frankie Heyward, Nan Liu, Christopher Jacobs, Rachael Ivison, Natalia Machado, Aykut Uner, Harini Srinivasan, Suraj Patel, Anton Gulko, Tyler Sermersheim, Stuart Orkin, Linus Tsai, Evan Rosen: "AGRP Neuron Epigenomes across Hunger States Reveal That IRF3 Mediates Leptin's Effects"

Wairimu Magua, Joseph B. Rickert, Christian P. Larsen: “Identifying Latent Short-Term Graft Function Trajectory Clusters after Kidney Transplantation to Inform Long-term Clinical Monitoring”

Tesfaye B. Mersha: “Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Genetic Ancestry Information in Kidney and Kidney-related Research”

Perla Ontiveros-Angel, Vivianna Williams, Tim Simon, Chi Viet, Marcelo Febo, Yaritza Inostroza-Nieves, Johnny D. Figueroa: “Neuroinflammation Correlates of Combined Psychosocial Stress and Obesogenic Diet Consumption during Adolescence”

Teresita Padilla-Benavides, Monserrat Olea-Flores, Nick Carulli, Yaje Nshanji, Sabriya A. Syed, Tapan Sharma, Emma Johnston, Hanna Witwicka, and Anthony N. Imbalzano: “Differential Requirements for Different Subfamilies of the Mammalian SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodeling Enzymes in Myoblast Proliferation, Differentiation, and Metal Homeostasis”

Gregory L. Peck, Yen-Hong Kuo, Shawna V. Hudson, Vicente H. Gracias, Jason A. Roy, Brian L. Strom: “Ten-Year Retrospective Cohort Study of the Change in Incidence of Emergency Cholecystectomy in New Jersey Coincident with Medicaid Expansion”

Renata O. Pereira, Jayashree Jena, Luis Miguel Garcia Pena, Kevin Kato, Alex Marti: “GDF15 Deficiency in Brown Adipose Tissue Does Not Affect Thermogenesis, but Exacerbates Diet-Induced Obesity”

Youssef Roman: “Cardiometabolic Genomics and Pharmacogenomics Investigations in Filipino Americans: Steps Towards Precision Health and Reducing Health Disparities”

Juan Ramon Sanabria, Pradeep Kumar Rajan, Utibe-Abasi S. Udoh, Juan Daniel Sanabria, Yuto Nakafuku, Sodhi K, Sandrine V. Pierre, Zijian Xie Joseph I. Shapiro: “Normalization of the A-1NA/K-ATPASE Signalosome Rescinds Epigenetic Modifications in NASH-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma”

Juan Ramon Sanabria, Utibe-Abasi S. Udoh, Moumita Banerjee, Pradeep Kumar Rajan, Juan Daniel Sanabria, Gary Smith, Yuto Nakafuku, Komal Sodhi, Sandrine V. Pierre, Zijian Xie Joseph I. Shapiro: “Tumor-suppressor Role of the A1-NA/K-ATPASE Signalosome in NASH-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma”

J.R. Sanabria, M. Abdelmasset, A. Cuaranta, J. Hernandez-Pelcastre, J. Eckels, T. Nguyen, N. Tate, C. Gillispie, E. Thompson, R. Finley, B. Payne, T. Davies, C. King, G. Montgomery, J. Willis, V. Kadiyala: “Value Assessment for Appendectomies by Score Cards Surrogates, Including Preliminary Results of a Randomized Control Trial on Perforated Appendicitis at a Health Network over 11 Years”

J.R. Sanabria, M. Abdelmasset, A. Iqbal, E. Thompson, V. Kadiyala, J. Willis, S. Munie, R. Finley, B. Payne, T. Davies, J. Tian, M. Siavoshi: “COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitance Index among American White Adults: Pre and Post Vaccination Survey from University-Affiliated Responders”

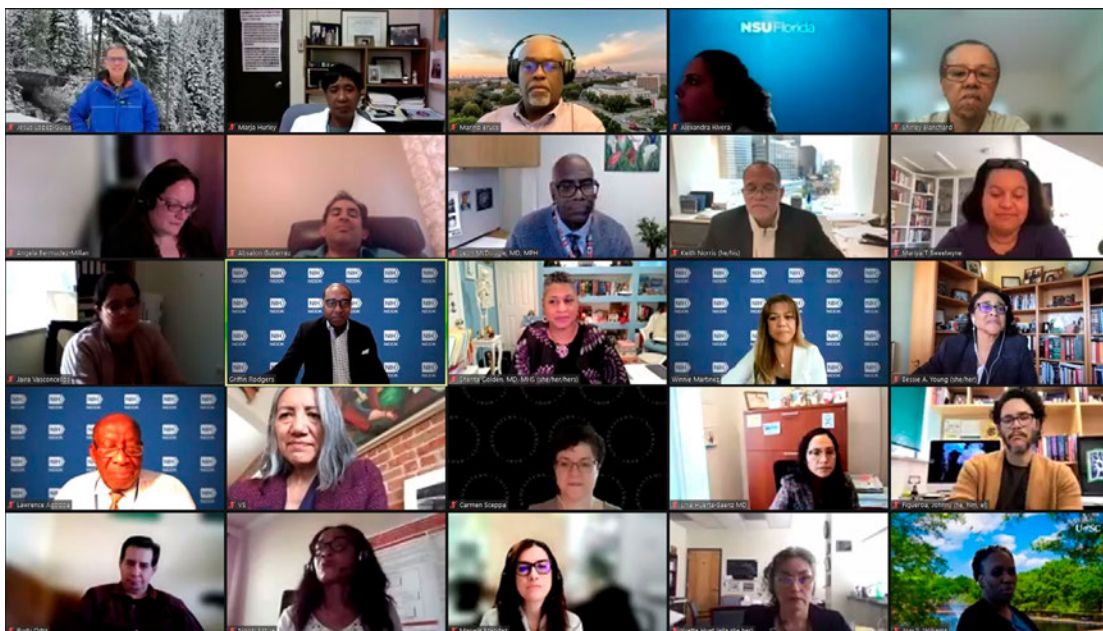
J.R. Sanabria, A. Cuaranta, M. Abdelmasset, A. Iqbal, E. Thompson, R. Finley, B. Payne, C. King, G. Montgomery, J. Willis, V. Kadiyala: “Value Assessment for Epigastric and Umbilical Hernia Repair at a Health System Network over an 11-year Period”

J.R. Sanabria, M. Abdelmasset, A. Cuaranta, A. Iqbal, E. Thompson, R. Finley, B. Payne, T. Davies, J. Aikens, M. Shelton, J. Tian, J. Willis, V. Kadiyala, D. Denning: “Trauma Program Value Assessment at an Academic Health Network System over 12 Years”

George Vasquez-Rios, Wonsuk Oh, Samuel Lee, Pavan Bhatraju, Sherry G. Mansour, Dennis G. Moledina, Faris F. Gulamali, Heather Thiessen-Philbrook, Eddie Siew, Amit X. Garg, Pinaki Sarder, Vernon M. Chinchilli, James S. Kaufman, Chi-yuan Hsu, Kathleen D. Liu, Paul L. Kimmel, Alan S. Go, Mark M. Wurfel, Jonathan Himmelfarb, Chirag R. Parikh, Steven G. Coca, Girish N. Nadkarni: “Joint Modeling of Clinical and Biomarker Data in Acute Kidney Injury Defines Unique Subphenotypes with Differing Outcomes”

Sacha A. Williams, Anh Thy H. Nguyen, Christopher Snyder, Paul D. Danielson, Nicole M. Chandler: “The Association of Surgeon Subspecialty with Pediatric Thyroidectomy Outcomes”

Preeti Pushpalata Zanwar, Mei Wang, Su-Hsin Chang: “Racial Differences in Lifetime Health Care Costs Associated with Obesity-related Multimorbidity in the U.S. Adult Population Ages 40 Years and Over”





National Institute of
Diabetes and Digestive
and Kidney Diseases