

**Ricardo Azziz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.**  
**Professor, State University of New York**  
**Chief Officer, Academic Health and Hospital Affairs**  
**State University of New York, Albany, NY**

### Research Interest

Dr. Azziz's biomedical research focuses on the study of reproductive endocrinology and androgen excess disorders, including the epidemiology, genetics, and pathophysiology of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS); the non-classic adrenal hyperplasias (NCAH); the role of the adrenal in hyperandrogenic disorders, the genetics of hyperandrogenic disorders, the physiology treatment of hirsutism; and the regulation and physiology of adrenal androgens. He has published over 500 original peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and reviews, and is consistently ranked one of America's Top Doctors. For his research achievements Dr. Azziz has received, among other recognition, the 2000 President's Achievement Award of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation, and was elected member of the Association of American Physicians in 2014. Dr. Azziz is a recognized thought leader in the arenas of higher education and academic healthcare, and his scholarship in these areas focuses on the study of leadership and faculty development, diversity & inclusion, change management, and mergers and consolidations.

### Biography

Ricardo Azziz is an internationally recognized physician, scientist, and executive who currently serves as Chief Officer, Academic Health & Hospital Affairs, the State University of New York (SUNY), the largest university system in the nation, where he provides strategic guidance to, and advocacy for, the academic health and academic medical centers portfolio of the SUNY system.

Dr. Azziz previously also served as president of Georgia Health Sciences University and then founding president of Georgia Regents University (now Augusta University), one of Georgia's four comprehensive research-level universities. He also served as founding CEO of the Georgia Regents Health System (now Augusta University Health System), the state's only public academic health center.

He also previously served as Deputy Director of the Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute and Assistant Dean for Clinical and Translational Sciences, and Vice Chair, Dept. of Ob/Gyn, at UCLA; and Director of the Center for Androgen-Related Disorders, acting Director of the General Clinical Research Center, and Chair of Ob/Gyn, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles. He is the founder and Senior Executive Director of the Androgen Excess & PCOS Society. Among other advisory capacities, he served on multiple NIH committees, chaired the US FDA Advisory Board on Reproductive Health Drugs, and served on the oversight committee for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Additionally, Dr. Azziz is an internationally recognized clinical translational researcher, developing over the past 25 years an important program in androgen excess disorders research, and an accomplished visual artist.

***Joyce Balls-Berry, Ph.D.***  
***Assistant Professor of Epidemiology***  
***Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN***

Research Interest

Joyce (Joy) E. Balls-Berry, Ph.D., is a psychiatric epidemiologist and health educator. Her primary research focus is evaluating the application of community-engaged research principles in diverse populations. Secondly, she is interested in how community-engaged research can be applied to increase health equity.

Dr. Balls-Berry has also focused her research on determining the best approaches for the inclusion of diverse populations into health research. This includes evaluating community recruitment approaches and determining the best methods for returning research findings to research participants.

Biography

Joyce (Joy) E. Balls-Berry, Ph.D., is a psychiatric epidemiologist and health educator. Her primary research focus is evaluating the application of community-engaged research principles in diverse populations. Secondly, she is interested in how community-engaged research can be applied to increase health equity.

Dr. Balls-Berry has also focused her research on determining the best approaches for the inclusion of diverse populations into health research. This includes evaluating community recruitment approaches and determining the best methods for returning research findings to research participants.

Focus areas

- Determining the best community-engaged research approaches to increase health equity in populations at risk of premature death from preventable diseases
- Evaluation of the best practices for returning cumulative research results to study participants
- Determining the perceptions and practices of African-Americans' participation in clinical research in the post-Tuskegee experiment era
- Evaluation of the pedagogical approaches to increase learners' (students, trainees, fellows and community members) knowledge of community-engaged research and health disparities

Significance to patient care

Dr. Balls-Berry's research will help to improve patient care by helping community members learn new approaches to increase wellness. Much of Dr. Balls-Berry's research focuses on bringing awareness to populations that we serve, and she hopes this work promotes thoughtful collaborative partnerships among community members, medical practitioners and academic researchers to activity commit to helping to improve health care of individuals and communities.

Furthermore, Dr. Balls-Berry is encouraged that this work will ultimately help to put the needs of our patients and communities first.

***Tiffany Beckman, M.D., M.P.H.***  
***Endocrinologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine***  
***Department of Medicine, Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism***  
***University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN***

### Research Interest

Dr. Beckman's research interests include: (1) using brain functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to define the neural correlates of obesity; (2) using a rodent model to study the neurobiology of eating behavior; (3) investigating satiety and changes in gut hormones with protein diet supplementation before and after gastric bypass surgery; (4) using community-based research methods to examine the effects of improved food availability on incident rates of diabetes and obesity in American Indians; (5) using holistic methods such as traditional Indian medicine, cross-cultural healing methods, and story-telling to improve health disparities in American Indians.

### Biography

As an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Dr. Tiffany R. Beckman is the first American Indian adult Endocrinologist in the nation. She is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Beckman is board certified in both Endocrinology and Internal Medicine. She is also a Research Associate at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Dr. Beckman received her M.D. degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School. She received her M.P.H. (Master's Degree in Public Health in Epidemiology, Maternal & Child Health) from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center. She completed an Indian Health Policy fellowship at the Center for American Indian and Minority Health at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Beckman also completed a medical subspecialty fellowship in Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism at the University of Minnesota. She is a graduate of the Native Americans in Philanthropy Circles of Leadership program. Dr. Beckman is a member of the Board of Directors for the Indian Health Board of Minneapolis.

Dr. Beckman is the Principal Investigator on a 5 year National Institutes of Health research grant for her study, "Neural Correlates of Food Reward in American Indian Women." She was a past participant in the National Institutes of Health funded Native Investigator Development program. She is also a co-Investigator on a Robert Wood Johnson Healthy Food Healthy Lives research grant, "Good Heart Grocery and Eat Right Deli Community Assessment & Strategic Plan," a feasibility study designed to help people living on Yankton reservation to have access to healthy low cost foods.

***Rhonda Bentley-Lewis, M.D., M.B.A., M.S.***  
***Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School***  
***Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department Medicine, Diabetes Unit***  
***Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA***

Research Interest

My research involves patient-oriented investigations of hormonal mechanisms underlying cardiovascular disease risk; specifically, the role that diabetes in pregnancy plays in mediating maternal cardiovascular disease risk and the associated racial/ethnic disparities. This work has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Award and the NIH/NIDDK.

Biography

Rhonda Bentley-Lewis earned her Bachelor's degree at Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges. She went on to the University of Pennsylvania where she earned her Doctorate in Medicine at the School of Medicine and a Master's in Business Administration at the Wharton School, focusing on healthcare management. She completed both her Internal Medicine residency and Endocrinology Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. During this time, she earned a Master's in Medical Science from Harvard Medical School (HMS) focusing on clinical investigation. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Assistant in Medicine in the Diabetes Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Her clinical practice is focused on diabetes management and prevention, as well as the management of diabetes in pregnancy. She conducts patient-oriented research focused on investigating how diabetes in pregnancy may promote subsequent maternal cardiovascular disease risk and she is funded by the NIH/NIDDK, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Award, and the MGH Physician Scientist Development Award, to conduct these studies.

Dr. Bentley-Lewis is actively involved with medical students and trainees through her work as the Faculty Advisor for the Women of Color in Medicine and Dentistry at HMS. She is also dedicated to promoting the success of women in academia and was elected to serve as the 2012- 2013 Faculty Chair of the Harvard Medical School/Harvard School of Dental Medicine Joint Committee on the Status of Women.

*April Carson, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.  
Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL*

Research Interest

The overarching theme of my research focuses on health disparities in the development of diabetes and its cardiovascular complications. With expertise in study design and research methods, I have extensive experience with large observational cohort studies and I have published on a range of social, clinical, and lifestyle factors related to the occurrence of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in disadvantaged populations. Currently, I am leading research projects directed towards understanding 1) the role of glycemic markers in the development of diabetes complications, 2) racial/ethnic differences in glycemic markers, and 3) the development and evaluation of risk prediction models for diabetes and its complications.

A list of my published work is available at

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/april.carson.1/bibliography/44238538/public/?sort=date&direction=descending>

Biography

I am an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I completed my BS in Microbiology at the University of Georgia and my MSPH and PhD in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have extensive experience with large epidemiologic studies and I am currently an investigator with the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) Study. I have published research on a range of social, clinical, and lifestyle factors related to cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

***Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, M.D., Ph.D.***  
***Professor and Chair, Department of Health Sciences***  
***Northeastern University, Boston, MA***

### Research Interest

Dr. Castaneda-Sceppa's program of research addresses three main areas of health promotion including to: (1) assess the efficacy of nutrition and physical activity/exercise interventions on chronic disease risk factors and health outcomes, (2) translate evidence based lifestyle interventions into 'real world' settings; and (3) develop sustainable strategies to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases across the lifespan. Her research targets vulnerable populations with particular emphasis on those ethnically diverse, suffering from debilitating chronic conditions, and socioeconomically disadvantaged. She has received funded from the Brookdale Foundation, the International Life Sciences Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the National Space and Biomedical Research Institute, corporations and foundations.

She is co-Principal Investigator of Healthy Kids Healthy Futures, an intergenerational obesity prevention imitative that promotes physical activity and healthy eating in families and day care staff of young children 3-8 years of age (<http://www.northeastern.edu/healthykids>). She is the PI of the Northeastern site of the Boston Roybal Center for Active Lifestyle Interventions (RALI Boston) as well as a member of the Center's Executive Committee and Chair of the Center's Elder Community Advisory Board.

Dr. Castaneda-Sceppa's research findings have been widely published and referenced. They represent a collaborative effort of a trans-disciplinary team of investigators, students and fellows. Her research has contributed to advancing the field of healthy aging by providing evidence on the benefits of resistance exercise for multiple health outcomes and disease conditions. More importantly, the knowledge acquired from her evidence base research has informed the development of "real world" community-based interventions and guidelines that bridge the gap between research and practice.

### Biography

Dr. Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa is Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Sciences at the Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. She is an adjunct Professor of Nutrition at Tufts University. She obtained her medical degree in Guatemala City and her Ph.D. in Nutrition at Tufts University. She is a Brookdale National Fellow and the recipient of the prestigious International Life Sciences Institute Future Leader Award. She conducts translational research focused on the benefits of nutrition and physical activity on health and wellness, quality of life, chronic disease outcomes, and health disparities.

Her research findings have provided evidence-based information used by the Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine to revise the Dietary Recommended Intake for protein in older adults. Her pioneer work on resistance exercise in older adults with kidney disease and diabetes was translated into clinical practice by the American Diabetes Association and adopted as standard of care. In addition, her research findings contributed to the recommendations for physical activity in older adults by the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Heart Association.

Funding for Dr. Castaneda-Sceppa's research include the Brookdale Foundation, the International Life Sciences Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the National Space and Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI); as well as corporations and foundations. She has over 100 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals. She lectures nationally and internationally and is a board member of various nonprofit and academic organizations. She is an active member of the American Society for Nutrition, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the Gerontological Society of America.

**Glenn M. Chertow, M.D., M.P.H.**  
**Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine/Nephrology**  
**Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA**

Research Interest

Dr. Glenn M. Chertow conducts clinical epidemiology, health services research, decision sciences and clinical trials in acute and chronic kidney disease.

Biography

Dr. Glenn M. Chertow is Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Nephrology at Stanford University School of Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty at Stanford, Dr. Chertow served with distinction on the faculties at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School (1995-98) and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) (1998-2007). Dr. Chertow has established a successful career as a clinical investigator and continues to maintain a productive research program focused on improving care for persons with acute and chronic kidney disease (CKD). Recent projects include several NIDDK-sponsored initiatives: Acute Renal Failure Trials Network (ATN) Study, the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) Special Studies Center in Nutrition, the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) study and the Frequent Hemodialysis Network (FHN) study.

Dr. Chertow was elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2004 and appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Kidney Foundation in 2007. He was Vice Chair and member of two workgroups for the Kidney Disease Quality Outcomes Initiative (K/DOQI) and Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

He will be among the five Co-Editors of the 9th edition of Brenner & Rector's The Kidney. Dr. Chertow also received the 2007 National Torchbearer Award from the American Kidney Fund for his career-long contributions toward improving the lives of persons with kidney disease.

*Leonor Corsino, MD., M.H.S*  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine*  
*Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC*

Research Interest

My long-term career goal is to become a productive, independently funded clinician scientist. My primary objective is to mitigate the negative consequences of disparities in obesity, diabetes and associated complications in minority populations. I strive to increase our understanding of factors contributing to these disparities.

Biography

Dr. Leonor Corsino is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology. She completed her residency at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI in 2005, where she finished her tenure as a Chief Medical Resident in 2006. Subsequently, she completed her endocrinology training at Duke in 2009 where she also got a Master of Health Science in Clinical Research. Dr. Corsino is currently the Associated Chair of the Department of medicine Minority Recruitment and Retention Committed, the faculty Advisor for the Latino Medical Student Association, and the Co-Director for the Duke Scholars in Molecular Medicine Endocrinology tract.

***Daisy DeLeon, Ph.D., M.S.***  
***Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology***  
***School of Medicine, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA***

Research Interest

Dr. Daisy De Leon's main research interest is the role of IGF-2 in breast cancer and diabetes on health disparities among African American Women (AA). Her laboratory has published on IGF- II actions in the development, progression, and metastasis of breast cancer among AA. Current studies in her laboratory are identifying the signaling pathways and the cellular and molecular mechanisms associated with IGF-II ability to promote breast cancer development and metastasis without the requirement of estrogen in the NUDE/SCID mouse models. Of interest to her team is how dietary supplements and anti-inflammatory drugs regulate IGF-II to prevent cancer. The research team in Dr. De Leon's laboratory integrates the cellular and molecular studies performed in established breast cancer cell lines with animal models and tumor tissues analysis to advance the translational significance of the research.

A current emphasis in Dr. De Leon's research laboratory is to determine the mechanisms that link IGF-II, diabetes and the breast cancer survival disparity observed among African American women. The original observation, published recently, linked IGF-II, diabetes and breast cancer in a series of studies that integrated in vivo cell analysis with breast cancer tissues from AA women. At present, our main research studies are focused on the mechanisms of IGF-II regulation of the mitochondria, the organelle at the intersection of breast cancer and diabetes.

Biography

Dr. De Leon completed a bachelor's and a master's degree in science at the University of Puerto Rico. In 1987 she received a PhD in endocrinology from the University of California at Davis (UCD). Her doctoral studies were funded by an award from NIH and a UCD Distinguished student fellowship. During the three years as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, Dr. De Leon's interest focused on IGFs in breast cancer. Her postdoctoral work was funded by awards from the Ford Foundation, American Cancer Society, and the Bernard Cohen postdoctoral fellowship. From 1990 to 1993 Dr. De Leon pursued further postdoctoral studies in breast cancer as a senior staff fellow in the National Cancer Institute at the NIH, Bethesda, MD.

In August 1993, Dr De Leon accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Physiology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. She successfully established the Breast Cancer Laboratory and in 1994 received the Pfizer Award for her research presentation at the American Society of Cell Biology. Her current research work in breast cancer has been funded by NIH and grants from the California Breast Cancer Research program, the Susan G. Komen breast cancer program, and private Foundations such as The Orser Foundation and VONS Cancer Program.

At the National level, Dr. De Leon is a member of The Endocrine Society, American Society for Cell Biology, American Society for Cancer Research, and the IGF International Society. She served as member and later led as Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee for the Endocrine Society. In this role, she was the co-PI for the NIGMS grant entitled "Endocrine Short courses," a program that partners with historically black colleges and Hispanic-serving institutions to develop endocrinologists, scientists, and clinicians from underrepresented groups. In 2004 Dr. De Leon was elected council member for the Endocrine Society. Dr. De Leon has also served as a grant review panelist for NCI, NIDDK, NSF, NRC, and the DOD. In addition, Dr. De Leon is a member of SACNAS, a nationally recognized scientific society for the development of minority students and is also a member of the NMRI, an NIDDK network for the development of a national minority scientists network.

Dr. Daisy De Leon has also been involved in developing programs and activities geared to increase the participation of underrepresented students in science and medicine including the establishment of the Office for Minority Student Development at LLU and the Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine. Dr. De Leon received the LLU "Outstanding Leadership of Minority Students Award" in 1996 and 1999. She was also recognized with the SDA Year of the Woman Hispanic Award (1995). Who's Who noted her as an "Outstanding Young Women of America" (1997). Loma Linda University has recognized Dr. De Leon with both the "Loma Linda University Hispanic Alumni Award for Contributions Leading to Hispanic Empowerment" (2003), and the 'Loma Linda University Diversity Leadership Award' (2006). In 2013, Dr. De Leon received the "Distinguished SDA Hispanic Woman Award" for her commitment to women health education in the Hispanic community in Southern California.

Dr. De Leon is the Director of the Research Core for the EXPORT program at the LLU Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine. As assistant to the Dean for Diversity, she also coordinates research and educational programs for underrepresented minority students from junior high school, high school, and undergraduate students from local schools interested in a career in medicine and biomedical research.

*Ayotunde Dokun, M.D., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Medicine-Endocrinology  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN*

Research Interest

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) of the lower extremities is the result of atherosclerotic blockage of blood vessels and its severity varies even among people with similar occlusions, suggesting a possible role for genetics in its severity. Individuals with diabetes are more likely to develop PAD and when people have PAD and diabetes, the disease is more severe resulting in higher risk of amputation and death. Therefore studies in our laboratory currently seek to understand how the metabolic environment in diabetes interacts with genetics and contribute to the poor PAD outcomes seen in individuals with diabetes.

Biography

Dr Dokun is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology, Chief of Endocrine Services, Regional One Health, University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, Memphis TN. Dr Dokun received his Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences from the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, Long Island, NY. He subsequently trained in the National Institute of Health (NIH) sponsored Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at the Mt Sinai Graduate School of Biological Sciences and the Mt Sinai School of Medicine (now Icahn School of Medicine), New York, NY where he earned his MD and PhD degree. After completion of his graduate training, Dr Dokun entered residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship training in Endocrinology and Metabolism at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC. Dr Dokun is an alumnus of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP). He currently runs a R01 funded translational research lab with a focus on understanding the molecular mechanisms of vascular complications in diabetes. He is well published, including publications in high profile Journals such as Science, Nature Immunology, Circulation and Circulation Research. He has received a number of awards for his scientific contributions, including the Jay D. Coffman Early Career Investigator Award from the American Heart Association (AHA). Dr Dokun currently serves on the board of non-for profit organizations and on the editorial board of several scientific journals.

**Gregory Florant, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, Department of Natural Science and Biology**  
**Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO**

Research Interest

I study how animals regulate food intake and bone metabolism. Our studies also focus on energy metabolism and obesity. I use mammals that undergo hibernation as an animal model. These animals do not eat for nearly 7 months and rely solely on endogenous fat stores. I am also interested in how fatty acids and other nutrients alter feeding behavior. I have been also studying bone metabolism in hibernators; why they don't lose bone mass during hibernation.

Biography

Dr. Gregory L. Florant received his B.S. from Cornell University in 1973 and his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1978. He has held faculty positions at Swarthmore College, Temple University, and is currently a full Professor of Biology at Colorado State University.

Florant has over 80 peer-reviewed publications and co-edited a book. He has received numerous awards including, AAAS Fellow, two Fulbright Research Scholarships, Ford Foundation Fellowship, CSU Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award, the CSU Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award, and a recently received Distinguished Visiting Professorship at Georgia State University for 2013.

He has received grant support from NSF, NIH, and several other agencies. His research focuses on how animals utilize nutrients, particularly lipids, to maintain energy balance under various environmental conditions.

In addition, Greg Florant, professor of biology, serves as the director of the Graduate Center for Diversity and Access, to provide leadership for the LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship Program.

“Serving in this new role aligns with my ongoing passion for mentoring underrepresented students pursuing education in the sciences,” he said. “Despite seeing the percentage of all doctoral degrees granted to underrepresented minority students in the STEM disciplines at CSU during the last 15 years increase from 2.1 percent to 10.8 percent, we know there is much more work to be done.

“Encouraging more students, particularly domestic underrepresented students considering doctoral degrees in STEM fields, is critical, as we are seeing a greater demand for scholars with advanced knowledge in STEM fields. We all benefit from the unique and innovative perspectives drawn from scientists with varied backgrounds as they work to solve new problems we will face in the coming years,” Florant added.

“Due to the LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate program, CSU is uniquely poised to offer state-of-the-art graduate training to underrepresented students in a broad range of disciplines,” said Jodie Redditi Hanzlik, dean of the graduate school. “Securing this very competitive award allows us to build on our successes and continue our long-standing commitment to significantly increasing STEM Ph.D. enrollment and completion rates of domestic underrepresented students.”

*Eddie Greene, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Department of Medicine, Nephrology and Hypertension  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN*

Research Interest

His research, clinical skills, and medical education/academic service efforts have also been nationally and internationally recognized at multiple academic institutions and conferences as well as at the NIH including NIMHD, NIGMS, and NIDDK-NMRI (National Institute of Digestive, Diabetes and Kidney Diseases National Minority Research Investigators Group of which he has been a member 2001 and served as the national Program Committee Chair for NIDDK-NMRI in 2009).

Dr. Greene has also previously served on several NIH Advisory Panels and Review Panels (NIH Grant Review Study Sections) in various capacities and is currently a member of the U.S. Health And Human Services National Advisory Council overseeing the strategic direction and function of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the NIH.

Dr. Greene is a previous recipient of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Award and continues to serve in additional important leadership capacities at the NIH, American Society of Nephrology, the American Heart Society, and at the Mayo Clinic.

Biography

Dr. Greene is an Associate Professor and Consultant Physician in the Department Of Internal Medicine (Division of Nephrology And Hypertension) at the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minnesota USA). Of particular relevance to NMRI are several clinical, administrative and research interests of Dr. Greene which include(s): (1) Health Disparities, (2) Diversity In Medical Education and Research, (3) the pathophysiology of chronic kidney disease (specifically the biology of fibrosis-inducing signaling cascades in renal tubular cells and in the renal mesangium), (4) the evaluation and management of cardiovascular co-morbidities in patients with chronic kidney disease and hypertension, and (5) the pathophysiology of renal disease and accompanying care of patients with renal malignancies.

Dr. Greene currently serves in several key institutional and external leadership capacities that align with the relevancy to NMRI. Dr. Greene currently serves as (1) a member of the Mayo Clinic Board of Governors and the Internal Board of Trustees of The Mayo Clinic and (2) as Medical Director Of The Office For Diversity in Education in The Mayo Clinic College of Medicine at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Greene previously served as the President Of The Officers and Councilors of Mayo Clinic Medical Staff. Additional relevance for Dr. Greene to the current proposal is that he has served as co-curriculum leader and co-director for the Mayo Clinic CTSA/CCaTS Grant Health Disparities Education Group.

External to Mayo and in a national and international capacity, Dr. Greene also serves as an Associate Editor of Diabetes Care, one of the premier journals for clinical and translational research in Diabetes Mellitus and is a member of the American heart Association Publications committee.

*B. Michelle Harris, Ph.D., M.P.H, M.S.  
Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics  
University of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.*

Research Interest

I am interested in re-dedicating myself to building a strong research agenda in the areas of nutrition and diabetes. Obesity prevention in minority populations, and especially in women, will continue to be my focus. I am also interested in using secondary data from large survey databases to address some of my research questions.

Biography

Dr. B. Michelle Harris is an Associate Professor in the Nutrition and Dietetics Program. Dr. Harris is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian whose focus is public health and community health through education, information, and research. Dr. Harris is a product of D.C. Public Schools and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Holy Cross College, a Master of Science in Nutrition from Framingham State College, and a Master of Public Health from Harvard. She earned her Ph.D. in Nutrition from the University of Maryland. She realized Pre-Professional Experiences (aka "Dietetic Internships) in Massachusetts at Boston City Hospital and Whittier Street Health Center. Courses that she has taught at the University of the District of Columbia are Introduction to Nutrition, Food Economics, Community Nutrition, Nutrition Education, Geriatric Nutrition, Nutrition in the Life Cycle, and Senior Research and Seminar.

*Patricia Heyn, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Arvada, CO*

Research Interest

My research is on the effects of aging and lifestyle behavior on selected metabolic, functional, and health outcomes of individuals with complex/chronic health conditions. I have a particular interest in understanding the effects of physical activity on cognitive function and its association to metabolic function. My investigations include the associations between lifestyle behavior, sex hormone, diabetes, obesity, disability on cognitive function. I have extensive experience in evaluating cognitive and physical function in older adults with cognitive impairments, including individuals with Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and intellectual disabilities.

Biography

Dr. Patricia C. Heyn has a PhD in Applied Exercise Physiology/Gerontology followed by two post-doctoral fellowships in 1) neurologic and cognitive rehabilitation supported by the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and 2) geriatric medicine research with emphasis in clinical trial design supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIH). She joined the faculty of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in 2004 where she is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

During her Rehabilitation Research Fellowship Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston mentored by Dr Kenneth Ottenbacher, she studied the effects of physical and cognitive-behavioral therapies on brain injury and stroke individuals as well as on Alzheimer's disease. During her second fellowship supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIH), she designed clinical trials (exercise and Androge1) for hypogonadal older men and trials (exercise and Pioglitazone) for older individuals with metabolic syndrome and mild cognitive impairment.

*Marja Hurley, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics  
Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism  
University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT*

#### Research Interest

Dr. Hurley is an internationally recognized expert in the field of bone biology, particularly in the area of anabolic growth factors and their impact on bone growth and metabolism. She is a physician scientist who is recognized nationally and internationally as the expert in the role of fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF2) in bone. She has made seminal observations on the importance of FGF2 in maintaining bone mass in mice as demonstrated by her publication in the premier Journal of Clinical Investigation on the bone phenotype in Fgf2 null mice and subsequent publications in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Endocrinology and the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research. She has also co-authored papers in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and Nature Medicine. She has also demonstrated that FGF2 is highly regulated by bone morphogenetic protein (BMP-2) an agent approved by the FDA for fracture repair in humans. In addition, her laboratory was the first to demonstrate that FGF2 expression in bone cells is increased by parathyroid hormone (PTH); the only anabolic agent approved by the FDA for osteoporosis treatment in the United States and further demonstrated that the anabolic response to PTH is impaired in Fgf2 null mice. Of potential/translational/clinical relevance, Dr. Hurley published a seminal paper demonstrating that the anabolic effect of PTH in humans is associated with increased serum levels of FGF2.

More recently, Dr Hurley has demonstrated a novel role for the nuclear isoforms of FGF2 in phosphate homeostasis and was recently awarded a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders to study the potential role of these isoforms in human disorder X-Linked Hypophosphatemic Rickets. Her outstanding research contributions, including seminal work on the role of FGF-2 in bone, have resulted in funding by the National Institutes of Health for well over twenty years. This has resulted in a profusion of high-quality publications that includes papers in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, Endocrinology, the Journal of Biological Chemistry and the Journal of Clinical Investigation, among other leading journals. She has developed a number of new genetic murine models that have greatly advanced our understanding of the complex effects that multiple FGF-2 isoforms exert on osteoblast commitment, differentiation and function.

#### Biography

Dr. Hurley is a research scientist, educator, clinician, and administrator at UCONN Health. In addition to serving as Associate Dean for the Health Career Opportunity Programs, Dr. Hurley has held major leadership positions at UCONN Health, serving in the following capacities; member, Senior Administrative Group, advisory to the Vice President for Health Affairs, Senior Associate Dean for Education (Interim) UCONN Health School of Medicine during which she successfully developed, submitted and implemented an "Action Plan" to the Liaison Committee Medical Education (LCME) for reaccreditation of the UCONN Health School of Medicine. Dr. Hurley also served as Liaison to the Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the Board of Directors; Chairman, Education Council; Chairman Committee on Undergraduate Medical Education.

(CUME) and implemented a new governance structure for medical student education in the School of Medicine; Specifically working with faculty, deans, department chairs and center directors of the School of Medicine, she developed and implemented new educational governance and established chair and vice chair positions for all subcommittees of CUME. Dr. Hurley also served as a member of the Dean's Council, the Research Council as well as a member of Compensation and Merit Plan Executive Committee UCONN Health School of Medicine. Dr. Hurley was recently appointed as a voting member of the Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the UCONN Health Board of Directors.

Dr. Hurley is a tenured professor of Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery at the UCONN Health School of Medicine. She is a physician scientist who is recognized nationally and internationally as the expert in the role of fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF2) in skeletal biology and maintains an active National Institute of Health (NIH) funded basic research laboratory that focuses on the molecular mechanisms of osteoporosis and the role of FGF2 in bone and phosphate homeostasis. A novel area of research recently begun in her laboratory seeks to determine the molecular mechanism(s) of bone loss using Sickle Cell Disease and Sickle Cell Trait transgenic mouse models. Dr. Hurley's outstanding research productivity is demonstrated by her 162 peer reviewed publications including 67 manuscripts, 10 invited reviews and book chapters and 85 abstracts as well as NIH and Foundation research funding since 1989.

Dr. Hurley has been highly sought to serve on NIH scientific review panels and has served as a permanent member of several NIH Institutes. Dr. Hurley also served as a reviewer of research proposals for the National Science Foundation. Dr. Hurley serves as a reviewer for a number of scientific journals in the field of bone research. She also served on the Editorial Board of Gene and currently serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.

Dr. Hurley is dedicated to the training and mentoring of the next generation of biomedical scientists. She is a member of the UConn graduate faculty for the Skeletal Biology and Regeneration as well as the Cell Biology areas of concentration in the Biomedical Sciences. She has supervised more than forty students in research including women and underrepresented students many of whom have gone on to outstanding careers in academic medicine or biomedical research. Dr. Hurley has received a number of awards for her accomplishments in research.

These include the University of Connecticut first Martin Luther King Award for Achievement in Science and she was recognized as one of the outstanding women in 100 years at the University of Connecticut. She is the recipient of the University of Connecticut Health Center Board of Directors Faculty Recognition Award, the University of Connecticut Neag Medal of Honor, and the Connecticut Technology Council 2010 Women of Innovation and Leadership Award. Dr Hurley was inducted into the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering in 2012.

*Carlos Isales, M.D.  
Professor, Department of Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine  
Augusta University, Augusta, GA*

Research Interest

We are interested in the impact of nutrients on stem cells and the aging process. Caloric restriction seems to retard the aging process but how it does this is not clear. We do know that as we age the stem cells become adipocytes rather than muscle/bone cells. We are looking for the regulators of this molecular switch with aging. In particular we are interested in the impact of dietary amino acids on bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell (BMSC) function. Our data demonstrates that amino acids have varying anabolic or catabolic effects. There are 20 common dietary amino acids and our data demonstrates that the aromatic amino acids have the most potent anabolic effects, particularly in the aging mouse model. Aging (24-month-old) C57BL/6 mice fed a low protein diet lose bone but this loss is prevented by dietary supplementation of aromatic amino acids. Our central hypothesis is that AAs are not just fuel, broken down to provide ATP for cell function, but rather that AAs normally function as “nutritional hormones” binding to extracellular receptors and activating cell signaling pathways. Our data are consistent with the aging process resulting in the loss of the ability of BMSCs to “sense” these normal anabolic signals from nutrients through epigenetic mechanisms. Further aging is associated with the accumulation of toxic breakdown products of these metabolites that interfere with their normal anabolic actions.

Biography

I did my medical school training in Puerto Rico at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. Then a residency in Internal Medicine at the San Juan VA Medical Center and a fellowship in Endocrinology and Metabolism at Yale School of Medicine under Dr. Howard Rasmussen. I am currently at the Medical College of Georgia have an interest in translational medicine and stem cell therapy.

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*Cheedy Jaja, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S.N., M.A.  
Associate Professor, College of Nursing, Academic Health Center  
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH*

Research Interest

My research interests are sickle cell disease (SCD), pharmacogenetics, and health care disparities. Currently, I am pursuing two related SCD research initiatives. Firstly, my recent tours (2014-2015) in providing clinical care to Ebola patients in Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic in West Africa created opportunities for a health systems strengthening SCD initiative. My principal partners in the proposed Sierra Leone SCD initiative are Jericho Road Community Health Center (Buffalo, New York); the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at the Medical College of Georgia (Augusta, Georgia); The Sierra Leone Sickle Cell Society (London, England); the Sickle Cell Carers Awareness Network (Sierra Leone), and the University of Cincinnati Colleges of Nursing and Medicine. The proposed project will establish SCD cohorts at the University of Cincinnati and Augusta University (Medical College of Georgia) Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Centers and in Kono District (Sierra Leone); implement a pilot educational program for clinicians; develop research initiatives to investigate the natural history of SCD in the patient cohorts; and create a pilot SCD preventive care program in Kono District (Sierra Leone). I have completed needs assessment studies to facilitate the establishment of a collaborative SCD pilot wellness and preventive care project in Sierra Leone. Funds from my faculty start-up package has been repurposed to underwrite this project. July 2016 is the projected start date for wellness and preventive care project.

Secondly, as an early-stage research scientist, my current research program explores the role of drug metabolizing enzymes and transporter to identify at-risk SCD patients for analgesic drugs failure. Enabling this goal was the award of a K01 mentored research grant from the National Institutes for Health/National Institute for Nursing Research. We are currently building a robust pharmacogenetic research program centered on the clinical translation of inherited genetic correlates that would foster the development of algorithms for personalized selection of analgesics and psycho pharmacotherapy for the individual SCD patient. To date, we have genotype and determine the frequencies of 36 drug metabolizing enzymes (including the CYP2C8, CYP2C9, and CYP2C19) and transporters involved in differential variation in drug metabolism in sickle cell disease patient cohorts.

Biography

Dr. Jaja is an early stage nurse research investigator. He has training in translational research with special regard to pharmacogenetics. He was the inaugural pharmacogenetics, ethics and public policy postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University. Dr. Jaja recently participated in laboratory and didactic training in the genomics of blood disorder as a mentee in the NHLBI sponsored SIPID program. Dr. Jaja's current NIH KO1 Career Award funded research grant study examines the role of CYP450 metabolizing enzymes (CYP2C9, CYP2C19 and CYP2D6) in analgesic prescribing in pediatric and adult sickle cell disease (SCD) cohorts. This current study epitomizes Dr. Jaja's commitment to identifying SCD patients whose psychosocial health warrant configuring patient-specific treatment plans with varying emphasis on narcotic-based treatments and behavioral therapies.

*Mark Lawson, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Reproductive Medicine  
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA*

### Research Interest

Maintenance of proper health depends on the proper regulation of the complex physiological systems that control energy balance, metabolism, growth, and reproduction. Of these, reproduction is unique in that it depends on other systems to operate properly and changes dramatically throughout life. Puberty, menstrual cycling, menopause and ageing are all unique reproductive stages that are a result of complex interactions between the reproductive and other systems. Because fertility depends on overall health, it is sensitive to proper physiological balance. Although the consequences of physiological imbalance result in reproductive problems such as infertility, difficulty of conception and reproductive problems in both sexes, very little is known of the sensing mechanisms that impact the reproductive system. The reproductive hormones that control fertility are produced in the brain, pituitary gland, and the ovary or testis. The neuropeptide hormone Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone (GnRH) is released in pulses from the hypothalamus and stimulates the pituitary to produce Luteinizing Hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). LH and FSH in turn stimulate the ovary or testis to produce the gonadal steroids and other hormones that act as either positive or negative feedback regulators of GnRH and LH or FSH synthesis and release. The production of GnRH by the brain and LH or FSH by the pituitary is also influenced by other hormones such as insulin, activin, inhibin and others. Our work is focused on the communication between the brain and pituitary gland via GnRH, and how this communication is altered by input from other hormone signaling systems or by metabolic status. Research topics in our laboratory include 1) the study of pulsatile GnRH signaling and its consequences on gene expression, 2) GnRH regulation of protein synthesis and the role of the Unfolded Protein Response in maintaining pituitary cell health, 3) the role of insulin as a regulator of pituitary sensitivity to GnRH, 4) the impact of fatty acids and inflammatory signals on the ability of the pituitary to respond to GnRH, and 5) the role of bone morphogenetic proteins and related hormones in the regulation of GnRH neurons.

### Biography

I have a broad training background in Virology, Neuroscience, and Endocrinology. I earned my B.S. in Microbiology at San Diego State University, my Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at University of California, Irvine, and I conducted postdoctoral work at The Salk Institute and at University of California, San Diego. In addition to my academic training, I also worked in the biotech industry before returning to academia as a member of the faculty in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego. In addition to my academic work, I have focused my university service in the area of increasing diversity in academia at all levels.

I have been a member of the NIDDK Network of Minority Research Investigators since its inception in 2002 and have participated as a session leader, panelist and participant regularly. I have also served as the Southern California Regional Liaison for the Ford Foundation/NAS Postdoctoral fellowship program since 2005, and have been a reviewer, panelist, and mentor in

the University of California President's Fellowship Program since 2003 and was appointed Director in 2015. I was also appointed Faculty Director of Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar Training and Education. I have also served on the Endocrine Society's Minority Affairs committee as well as chaired the Trainee and Career Development Committee for the past three years.

Through my activities with The Endocrine Society, I have developed the current Early Career Forum, a career development course held annually prior to the national meeting. I also serve as a steering committee member of the NIDDK-funded FLARE program, a leadership training course targeting postdoctoral trainees and early career faculty. All of these activities are focused on training at the postdoctoral level and I have developed multiple programs providing career development training at this level. My own trainees have progressed to both traditional academic positions, industry, or other areas closely allied with basic science.

At the undergraduate level, I am Co-Director of the Endocrine Network for Undergraduate Research Opportunity and Career Development. This program is focused on bringing research experience and career mentoring to students at minority-serving institutions. This is a unique program that not only brings opportunity to undergraduate students, but also employs a controlled evaluation component that critically examines the effectiveness of intervention programs using a hypothesis-driven research approach to evaluate program components and overall outcomes.

*Gayenell Smith Magwood, Ph.D., B.S.N., M.S.N.  
Professor, College of Nursing  
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

### Research Interest

My primary research focuses on socio-environmental, and bio-behavioral factors in development and implementation of community based lifestyle interventions for multiple risk reduction (cardiometabolic risk) particularly diabetes and obesity among African Americans. My interest extends to multi risk reduction (HTN, stroke prevention). I have clinical and research experience related to kidney transplant population. My commitment to multiple risk reduction stems from my long-term commitment to health disparities research. My research experience includes community-engaged diabetes prevention intervention development and implementation. My research combines advocacy and science to inform best practices for building, enhancing, and sustaining partnerships with communities; contributing expertise in the intersection of community and health systems with underserved populations.

### Biography

Dr. Gayenell S. Magwood is Professor in the College of Nursing at the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Nursing. Dr. Magwood serves as PI and/or Co-Investigator on numerous externally and internally funded research for development and implementation of community engaged interventions and multi-level community-based participatory research with underserved communities. Her current NIH funding supports the implementation of a multi-level DPP intervention, linking Subsidized Housing infrastructures with FQHC-Primary Care Networks.

Dr. Magwood's other research focuses on biobehavioral cancer and cardiometabolic risk studies. Additionally, She and a team of investigators established the Wide Spectrum Investigation of Stroke Outcome Disparities on Multiple Levels (WISSDOM) Center. Dr. Magwood serves as the Population Science PI for WISSDOM Center, part of the American Heart Association's Strategically Focused Disparities in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Research Network.

Dr. Magwood served as Project Director and later as Co-PI for REACH 2010: Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition, a CBPR grant focused on eliminating disparities and improving care for African Americans with diabetes. She also served as Co- PI Investigator for the REACH U.S. Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities (REACH SEA-CEED), leading community systems and legacy projects.

Prior to joining the CON, Dr. Magwood's clinical experience was as a solid organ clinical transplant coordinator and a surgical/trauma critical care nurse. Dr. Magwood has held certifications as both, an adult critical care nurse (CCRN) and a clinical transplant coordinator (CCTC). The American Association of Critical Care Nurses currently designates her as an Alumnus CCRN.

Her research interests include health disparities, community-based interventions related to multiple risk reduction, particularly cardiometabolic risk, chronic disease prevention and management.

*Leon McDougle, M.D., M.P.H.  
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine  
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH*

### Research Interest

Dr. Leon McDougle's research interests include cross-cultural communication, especially as it relates to the patient physician relationship and its impact on healthcare outcomes of African Americans with diabetes, hypertension or chronic pain. In addition, he has identified opportunities to lead and promote partnerships that have led to externally funded research and training grants. For example, Dr. McDougle partnered with OSU College of Medicine biomedical scientist program leadership in submitting the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) R25 RFA to create a post baccalaureate program to enhance diversity of students entering PhD biomedical scientist training, DISCOVERY PREP. An application for continuation of funding was submitted January 2015.

In addition, partnership with Greta Winbush, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology and Gerontology at Central State University, a Historically Black University located in Wilberforce, Ohio and OSU Department of Family Medicine research faculty led to successful NIH funding of a 5-year project entitled "Closing the Health Disparity Gap: Impact of Health Empowerment Technologies on Elderly African American's Health Provider Relationships". Research that leverages findings of this study is ongoing.

### Biography

Leon McDougle, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Family Medicine with tenure and Chief Diversity Officer for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center leads initiatives to improve workforce diversity, inclusion and climate, and cultural competency across the academic health center to advance health equity. He has a strong history of collaborative research with investigators at Central State University (CSU), a Historically Black University, which is focused on health empowerment technology for African Americans.

Dr. McDougle served as the OSU site principal investigator for Closing the Health Disparity Gap: Impact of Health Empowerment Technologies on Elderly African American's Health Provider Relationships, the grant awarded to CSU by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) that aimed to reduce disparities in health knowledge, health communication, health decision-making, service satisfaction, and the role of health technology in eliminating roadblocks to better collaborative discourse in the patient-doctor relationships among African American elderly.

He is now serving as the OSU site principal investigator for Health Empowerment Technologies (HET): Triple Jeopardy Health Empowerment Project, the grant awarded to CSU by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council that aims to customize the HET web-based technology, pilot the revised technology, and disseminate study findings. Dr. McDougle will also serve as the OSU site principal investigator for Merging Health Disparity Research with Health Empowerment Technologies to Improve Health Outcomes for Older Americans with Diabetes and Hypertension, a grant proposal submitted in January 2015 by CSU to NIMHD.

*Manuel Miranda-Arango, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Texas, El Paso, TX*

### Research Interest

The Miranda's laboratory studies neurotransmitter transporters and their role in diseases. We investigate the role of endocytosis and posttranslational modifications in the regulation of activity of the transporters for dopamine and glycine. We also investigate the effects of the psychostimulant methamphetamine in the stability of the dopamine transporter and receptors in the brain, utilizing a rodent model. In addition, our latest research focus has been on the role glycine transporters in pharmacological interventions and disease. The neuronal glycine transporters coordinate a variety of motor and sensory functions and mutation at those results in impair motor or sensory control. For these transporters, we investigate the location and function of glycinergic neurons in the rodent brain containing either or both of two transporters, GlyT1 and GlyT2 utilizing a variety of biochemical approaches and microscopy imaging techniques.

Throughout my career at Yale University, I have gained extensive experience in the analysis of the structure-function relationships of primary and secondary transporters in yeast and mammalian cells. During my postdoctoral training at the University of Colorado, I expanded my research skills to include the cell biology of the dopamine transporter. During that time, I discovered that Protein Kinase C (PKC)-dependent endocytosis and further downregulation of DAT are triggered by ubiquitination. This training accounts for more than 15 year experience studying transporters.

### Biography

I was born in Mexico City, Mexico on May 20th, 1967; 1 of 10 siblings from a low-income family (8 males and 2 females). I got my education in Mexico City, where I attended college and graduate school. I graduated with honors and continue my postdoctoral training at Yale University. A fellowship from the Fogarty International Center allowed me to get training at Yale Medical School, where I continued my training on structure-function of ion transporters. After this time, I continued my training as a senior scientist at the University of Colorado on neurotransmitter transporters to later join the University of Texas at El Paso as an assistant professor. To date, I was promoted to Associate professor with tenure and continue to secure extramural funding.

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**Nihal Mohamed, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Urology  
Icahn School of Medicine, New York, NY**

**Research Interest**

I have a solid program of research on prostate and bladder cancer (\$1 Million as Principal Investigator; \$1.1 Million as a Co-Investigator) funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH), The Department of Defense (DoD), and the American Cancer Society (ACS). Below I have provided an overview of my areas of expertise and prior research support.

In 1998, after receiving my Bachelor's (Honor) and Master's degrees in educational psychology, I joined the department of psychology at Khartoum University in Sudan as a lecturer. During this time I taught several undergraduate courses and supervised undergraduate research required for the completion of Bachelor and Diploma degrees in Psychology at the University of Khartoum including Introduction to Statistics and Research Methodology, Physiological Psychology, and Cognitive Psychology. I also supervised undergraduate research that addressed different topics including coping with cancer and treatment side effects. Supervising undergraduate research in cancer increased my interests in psychosocial and behavioral issues involved in cancer prevention and health care. Because academic resources were very limited at the Department of Psychology, Khartoum University, I applied for The German Academic Exchange Program (DAAD) and received a 4-year scholarship to obtain a Ph.D. in health psychology at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. I received my Ph.D. degree (Magna Cum Laude) in October 2004. My dissertation research focused on examining the role of personal and social resources, and coping for finding meaning in cancer. I was particularly interested in examining the mediation effects of coping strategies in the relationships among personal and social resources and finding meaning in cancer. During this time, I improved my skills in recruitment of newly diagnosed cancer patients, data entry and organization, and quantitative data analyses using SPSS.

In 2006, I joined the department of urology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine to continue my post-doctoral training. As a post-doctoral research associate and a senior project manager at Mount Sinai School of Medicine (2006-2009) I developed strong expertise in developing and evaluating multimedia intervention to enhance quality of life and improve symptom management among prostate cancer survivors (funded by NCI and DOD). In 2010, I was appointed Research Assistant Professor and a faculty member of the department of urology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York. Although I did my post-doctoral training at Mount Sinai on prostate cancer, I have moved on to independent status with my own research and lab space (2010). I am currently a PI or a Co-I on several previous funded grants (NIH, DoD, and ACS).

**Biography**

I have over 10 years of cancer research. I have broad background in health psychology with specific training in key research areas of this application (e.g., the patient's emotional adjustment and wellbeing following cancer diagnosis and treatment, coping with cancer treatment, social support, and finding meaning in cancer). As a post-doctoral research associate and a senior project manager at Mount Sinai School of Medicine (2006-2009), I developed strong expertise in designing and evaluating multimedia interventions to enhance quality of life and improve symptom management among prostate cancer survivors (funded by NCI and DOD). Although I did my post-doctoral training at Mount Sinai on prostate cancer, I have moved on to independent status with my own research and lab space (2010). I am PI or a Co-I on several previously funded grants (The NCI (R03, K01 declined because of an overlap with existing grants), American Cancer Society (ACS); and the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN); and Department of Defense (DOD). I have also extensive experience in managing multi-centered prostate and bladder cancer research programs, patients' interviews and focus groups, and data analyses and interpretations using advanced software programs including Atlas.ti, SPSS, AMOS, and MPLUS. I have a demonstrated record of successful and productive research projects in an area of high relevance for our aging population, and my expertise and experience have prepared me to lead several cancer-focused studies on bladder and prostate cancer populations.

*Rocio Pereira, M.D.  
Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology  
University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO*

Research Interest

The primary goal of my research is to decrease the incidence of diabetes and diabetes-associated diseases among high-risk populations in the U.S. I am the Founder and Director of a community-based Diabetes Prevention Program in Colorado, and a Consultant for a clinic-based Diabetes Prevention Program at safety-net hospital system Denver Health. Recent research projects have focused on identifying factors that predict success in the DPP and methods to expand services to children at high risk for obesity and diabetes.

Biography

Dr. Pereira joined the faculty of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes in July 2005. Dr. Pereira was born in Lima, Peru and moved to the United States with her family at the age of 10. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Rochester in 1989. Dr. Pereira worked as a Research Assistant at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, and then at the UCHSC-affiliated Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes until 1995. She then attended the University of Colorado School of Medicine where she earned her M.D. degree in 1999. Dr. Pereira completed her Internal Medicine Residency training at UCHSC in 2002 and remained there for her Endocrinology Fellowship which she completed in 2005. Dr. Pereira is board certified in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology. She has also been on staff at Denver Health Medical Center since July 2006 as a Clinical Endocrinologist. Dr. Pereira's research focuses on the role of adipose tissue in mediating insulin resistance, diabetes, and the Metabolic Syndrome. She is currently studying subjects in the General Clinical Research Center as well as conducting laboratory research.

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**Ariana Raquel Pichardo-Lowden, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hershey Medical Center  
Penn State University, Hershey, PA**

Research Interest

The overarching theme of my research work is improving quality of care and the outcome of patient with diabetes mellitus through medical education and implementation of best practices. As is widely known, diabetes mellitus is a growing problem of worldwide magnitude affecting a large proportion of the United States population. Diabetes care poses a large national economic burden in the inpatient and outpatient settings. Hyperglycemia is common in hospitalized patients and a number of studies show that poor glycemic control in hospitalized patients is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. Improved glycemia in hospitalized patients has a positive impact in clinical outcomes. In the past decade, our knowledge about the impact of inpatient dysglycemia has increased exponentially prompting diabetes leading societies to call hospitals to action. Among the recommended interventions are continuing education programs for providers. Furthermore, inpatient glycemic management represent a hospital quality measure. Perception of the relevance of the problems related to hospital glycemic care among faculty and providers in training is not uniform. Studies suggest that knowledge, attitudinal and clinical decision making deficits may influence provider's performance and consequently patient care.

My research interests is in optimizing patient care through optimizing clinical practice. One of my current projects consist on a needs assessment study to determine knowledge, attitudes, and decision making of trainees and faculty in the subject of inpatient glycemic management and its possible association with glycemic control, as well as the identification of barriers to deliver optimal inpatient glycemic management. I envision the development of educational programs and system process improvements aiming to address the areas of deficit identified from this needs assessment study. My research work aligns with the vision of leading diabetes societies in optimizing the care of patients with diabetes and hyperglycemia in the hospital, and with the ever stronger vision of integrating education and quality of patient care. This will constitute the main focus of my first few years of academic work.

Biography

I was born and raised in Santiago, Dominican Republic where I attended medical school and graduated Magna cum Laude in 1999 from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra. I pursued further training as an internist at Mount Carmel Health System in Columbus, Ohio. Subsequently, I joined The Pennsylvania State University, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center for endocrinology fellowship training where I currently function as a Junior Faculty since 2010. I am passionate about all aspects of endocrinology and diabetes and I feel committed to the intellectual and professional growth of trainees. It is my vision that providers with strong abilities in different domains enhance patient care.

I am active in clinical, teaching and investigative pursuits and have been consistently working towards the acquisition of stronger skills as an investigator. To strengthen my preparedness as an investigator with a foundation in medical education, I participate in various activities and programs such as the Junior Faculty Development Program through the office of Professional Development at Hershey Medical Center (2011-2012), the 2012 American Association of Medical Colleges Minority Faculty Development Seminar. I also attend to pertinent activities as the opportunity arises such as data management workshops, grant writing workshops, active learning interest groups among other faculty development workshops. I am currently enrolled in the Penn State Program in Adult Education with a goal towards a Master Degree in Medical Education.

The scholarly work that I have been pursuing over the past years dates since the beginning of my fellowship in 2008 when I started to critically review the literature pertaining to inpatient glycemic management and worked in quality improvement initiatives which led to publications and other scholarly activities. I am privileged and honored to receive invitations to review articles in the field and I am consistently active on scholarly pursuits and I enjoy the dissemination of knowledge that is so vital to the medical scientific field.

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*Sylvia Rosas, M.D., M.S.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Joslin Diabetes Center/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA*

Research Interest

Dr. Rosas is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is the founding Director of the Latino Kidney Clinic at Joslin Diabetes Center. She performs epidemiological research in the setting of chronic kidney disease (CKD) with a particular emphasis in cardiovascular and metabolic complications. She has been site PI of multiple clinical trials in individuals with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. She is the ancillary investigator for the carotid ultrasound core in Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) Study, the largest prospective study of individuals with chronic kidney disease. She is the site PI for the Prevention of Early Renal Loss (PERL) study, a randomized control study of allopurinol in patients with Type 1 diabetes. She is interested in the use of biomarkers and genes for the risk prediction of CKD and its complications.

Biography

Sylvia E. Rosas, MD, MSCE is a staff physician at the Joslin Diabetes Center and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She completed Internal Medicine training at Michael Reese Hospital/University of Illinois at Chicago. She completed her nephrology and epidemiology training at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rosas performs clinical research related to cardiovascular epidemiology in the setting of chronic kidney disease. Her research has been funded by the NIH, AHA and the Department of Veterans Affairs. She currently directs the Latino Kidney Clinic at the Joslin Diabetes Center.

*Virginia Sarapura, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Department of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes  
University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO*

Research Interest

My research interests focus on autoimmune thyroid disease. During my training, I investigated the mechanism of expression of the alpha-subunit of thyroid stimulating hormone and the regulation of thyrotrope function and thyroid hormone receptor expression by thyroid hormone, and I also explored expression of the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit gene in solid tumors, specifically lung cancer. With my basic training in molecular biology research, I became interested in the genetic and epigenetic factors that predispose to autoimmune thyroid disease, which comprise a large part of my clinical practice as an academic endocrinologist. More recently, I have also established collaborations to study the immunological processes leading to the development of autoimmune thyroid disease.

Biography

My research has focused on several areas. As a trainee, I learned the basic tools of molecular biology research and began to investigate the mechanism of expression of the alpha-subunit of the pituitary glycoprotein hormones under the guidance of Dr. E. Chester Ridgway and his Ph.D. associates, Drs. William Wood and David Gordon. I collaborated on other projects within the laboratory, including the regulation of thyrotrope cell growth by thyroid hormone. I also have explored other areas of investigation, including the expression of the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit gene in solid tumors, specifically lung cancer, and the genetic and epigenetic factors that predispose to the development of autoimmune thyroid disorders. Currently my work is focused on academic clinical practice and teaching endocrinology to our second year medical students, and a research collaboration with our Immunology Department, to investigate the immune processes leading to the development of autoimmune disease.

*Jacqueline Tanaka, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Biology  
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA*

### Research Interest

I am interested in ion channels and how their structure accounts for the diversity of their functional roles in the nervous system as well as signaling in other cell types. Most recently, I have focused on cyclic nucleotide-gated channels in rod and cone photoreceptors. I study channel function using patch clamp electrophysiology and then use structural modeling with molecular dynamics simulations to hypothesize how the structure accounts for the function. The channels are activated by the binding of cGMP or cAMP in a cytoplasmic domain of each subunit of a tetrameric channel. How is information about the binding communicated to the gating regions of the channel that regulates ion flow across the membrane?

We collaborate with veterinary ophthalmologists who identified mutations in CNG channel subunits in dogs that result in day-blindness, an inherited condition similar to achromatopsia in humans. My lab focuses on understanding the molecular pathophysiology of the canine disease in order to provide insights about achromatopsia.

### Biography

I earned my PhD from University of Illinois Urbana in Physiology. My graduate work was on voltage-gated Na channels and I continued working on Na channels as a postdoc at U. Penn with Robert Barchi. I did a 2nd postdoc with Paul Mueller and at that time I switched my interest to CNG channels. I spent almost 20 years as a research faculty member at Penn in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics department. I wanted to teach undergraduates and in 2000, I moved to the biology department of Temple University.

Currently, I teach courses in the biology department and am the director of an NIH MARC U- STAR program. We have 16 students in the program which provides research experience and mentoring as preparation for students entering competitive PhD programs in biomedical science. Students are from underrepresented groups including racial minorities, first-generation, low income and disabled. The program was recently re-funded for 5 years and we currently have students at Penn, Harvard, Columbia, U MD, W Wis, and others with students this year entering U. Chicago (biophysics), Johns Hopkins (chem), Einstein (Mol bio and genomics), and one entering NIH postbac program.

*Heather Tarleton, Ph.D., M.S.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Sciences  
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA*

### Research Interest

My research focuses on cancer survivorship. Within cancer survivorship, my research interests are in prevalent comorbidity among cancer survivors and behavioral interventions for chronic disease management. Currently, I am conducting a study titled “IMPAACT: Improving Physical Activity After Cancer Treatment”. The IMPAACT study is a collaborative effort with my colleagues in the Department of Health and Human Sciences and is also a research training opportunity for upperclassmen preparing to enter the Allied Health professions.

The study connects epidemiology, exercise physiology, nutrition, and rehabilitation science and recruits participants from the racially and ethnically diverse cities within Los Angeles County. The study was designed to examine the effects of a combined aerobic exercise and resistance training program on the body composition of cancer survivors and on reducing the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and osteoporosis among cancer survivors. The study also aims to improve cancer survivors’ overall capacity to engage in physical activity by addressing fatigue, balance, muscle health, cardiorespiratory fitness, neuropathy and psychosocial barriers to motivation.

In addition to my focus on cancer epidemiology and cancer survivorship research, I am also heavily invested in drawing undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds and underserved communities into STEM research. I am a faculty mentor for the McNair Scholars Program at Loyola Marymount University and a Councilor for the Health Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

### Biography

Dr. Heather Tarleton is an Assistant Professor of Health and Human Sciences at the Seaver College of Science and Engineering, Loyola Marymount University and Affiliate Faculty at The Bioethics Institute, Loyola Marymount University. She is formally trained as a molecular biologist (Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, Princeton University) and cancer epidemiologist (M.S. in Epidemiology, University of California, Los Angeles).

Currently, she is the Principal Investigator of a study titled IMPAACT: Improving Physical Activity After Cancer Treatment. The IMPAACT study examines the effects of a combined aerobic exercise and resistance training program on reducing the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and osteoporosis among cancer survivors. The study aims to improve cancer survivors overall capacity to engage in physical activity by addressing fatigue, balance, musculoskeletal health and strength, cardiorespiratory fitness, neuropathy and psychosocial barriers to exercise participation.

Dr. Tarleton is also a faculty mentor for the McNair Scholars Program at Loyola Marymount University and a Councilor for the Health Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

*Fern Webb, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Community Health and Family Medicine  
University of Florida, Jacksonville, FL*

### Research Interest

Dr. Fern Webb trained family medicine/primary care physicians in epidemiology, research methods and statistics to increase physicians' practice of evidence-based medicine and provide quality healthcare. Since graduating the last class of family medicine residents in 2007, Dr. Webb began to focus her research on innovative health interventions developed for faith-based communities. Dr. Webb collaborates with other researchers on various investigations, all designed to understand disease states and processes, reduce or eliminate diseases and poor health behaviors, or promote health in clinical and community based populations.

As a social epidemiologist and translational researcher, Dr. Fern Jureidini Webb tests interventions found to be effective in other populations and in various environments on African-Americans to decrease health disparities, specifically related to obesity and marijuana use. Dr. Webb is interested in understanding what motivates individuals to change health behaviors as they specifically relate to reducing weight, or eliminating drug use. For example, the Winning Over Weight (WOW Wellness) Wellness was designed to decrease obesity in African-American women, concluding that interventions conducted in faith-based settings are effective to decrease obesity and improve social support.

Another developing area of research for Dr. Webb is community engaged research (CEnR); through a Diversity Supplement provided by NIH NIDA (PI: Linda Cottler - Transformative Approach to Reduce Research Disparities Towards Drug Users [2012-2014]), Dr. Webb is becoming proficient in conducting CEnR research, and in particular, engaging the general population in research involving topics and issues that concern them, or of a particularly sensitive matter. This is becoming increasingly important as health professionals seek to engage out-of-treatment populations in efforts to reduce chronic diseases. Dr. Webb also leads and helps to coordinate community research investigations to assist with increasing access to health/medical resources, as well as promote opportunities to participate in research and mechanisms that promote bi-directional communication between underrepresented and underserved populations and health researchers. Dr. Webb also serves on civic boards, as well as scientific and national committees aimed to improve population health.

### Biography

I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Sciences – Chemistry from the University of South Florida (USF) in 1992, and a Master of Science degree in Food Science and Technology from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (1995). After earning my Ph.D. in Public Health, focusing on Epidemiology, I joined the University of Florida (UF) Department of Community Health and Family Medicine (CHFM) as the research director (2001) and later as an Assistant Professor (2003), where I taught family medicine residents evidenced-based medicine, epidemiology and research methodologies. Now an Associate Professor in CHFM, my research agenda focuses on motivators to improve health outcomes, specifically obesity and marijuana use, among African Americans. My passion for research is driven by my heightened sense of compassion and empathy for others, who like me, are often excluded. Moreover, social and environmental responses subtly instill that my phenotype made me inferior to Whites as well as some of my Black counterparts having more distinct characteristics. As a Black woman, I fully appreciate the advantage of having parents and significant others, who always instill in me a strong

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sense of self-empowerment coupled with a strong commitment to community, which has resulted in my passion to serve others.

My interest in research and evaluation pertaining to health and healthcare was first ignited in 1996 after taking an introductory epidemiology course at the University of South Florida College of Public Health. Fascinated with the concept that health and disease are not isolated phenomena, I wanted to learn more about socio-demographic factors that serve as protective- or risk- factors for disease development and prevention. This excitement readily translates to my current work since while we intuitively know that healthier individuals result in healthier individuals, families, and communities, this knowledge does not readily motivate populations to practice healthier behaviors or lead healthier lifestyles. This is clearly evident in my professional, social and personal settings as well as well documented in the scientific literature.

My areas of research include obesity prevention and reduction, marijuana use, social influence, patient centered medical homes and cancer research to highlight a few; in essence, I am eager to work with others equally passionate about improving some health aspect our clinical and community population.

My accomplishments include evaluating local and state programs for evidence-based research methodology, providing lectures to local and national audiences, serving in community-based organizations, contributing service to academic and science by reviewing manuscripts and presenting my findings at national conferences, all aimed at positively influencing and improving our communities' health! Moreover, my most valued accomplishments include being a wife, mother to Kustarr (born 2005) and Kowen (born 2007), and a daughter, sister, friend and colleague.

*Bessie Young, M.D., M.P.H.  
Professor, Department of Medicine  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

Research Interest

Health disparities continue to be important determinants of adverse health outcomes in the United States. My research interests focus on investigating the epidemiology of racial and ethnic differences in chronic kidney disease incidence and progression and kidney replacement modality selection for end stage renal disease (ESRD). My specific research projects include three main areas: the evaluation of the epidemiology, disease progression, and disease management of chronic kidney disease in systems where equal access to care is available; 2. racial and ethnic barriers to renal transplantation and home dialysis modalities among patients with late stage CKD; and 3. determination of novel risk factors for development of chronic kidney disease and chronic kidney disease progression amongst African Americans. My current research project involves evaluation of novel risk factors for kidney disease and kidney disease-related cardiovascular outcomes amongst enrollees of the Jackson Heart Study. My research program is currently funded through the NIH NIDDK program.

Biography

Dr. Bessie Young is a staff nephrologist at the Seattle VA Puget Sound Health Care System and an Associate Professor at the University of Washington. She completed her Internal Medicine and Nephrology training at the University of Washington and received her MPH in epidemiology at the University of Washington. She also completed a Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Fellowship in General Internal Medicine. She received an American Diabetes Association Career Development Award to study racial and ethnic differences in diabetic kidney disease and a Robert Wood Johnson Harold Amos Faculty Development Award as well. She currently conducts research on racial and ethnic differences in chronic kidney disease, end stage renal disease (ESRD), and transplantation. Prior funding included evaluation and development of new educational tools to increase awareness of transplantation among African Americans with chronic kidney disease who are in the process of choosing modalities for kidney replacement therapy through the Increasing Kidney Awareness Network (IKAN). Currently she is funded to develop a chronic kidney disease working group with the Jackson Heart Study, and will novel risk factors for incident and progression of chronic kidney disease and kidney disease associated risk factors for cardiovascular outcomes amongst Jackson Heart Study participants