



**Daheia J. Barr-Anderson, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., FACSM**

Assistant Professor  
Director, Behavioral Physical Activity Laboratory  
School of Kinesiology  
College of Education and Human Development  
University of Minnesota  
220A Cooke Hall  
1900 University Avenue, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Telephone: 612-301-1309  
Fax: 612-626-7700  
Email: barra027@umn.edu

***Research Interests***

My research interests focus on physical activity, sedentary behaviors, and obesity prevention in children and adolescents. I am particularly interested in home- and community-based environmental interventions that incorporate both physical activity and nutrition to achieve healthy outcomes and to decrease racial/ethnic health inequalities. An area of research I am beginning to explore is how factors within the home activity and food environments interplay with individual and interpersonal factors to contribute to overweight and obesity in children, adolescents, and their families. I have been the Principal Investigator of grants from the General Mills Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and NIH Building Interdisciplinary Careers in Women's Health program and Co-Investigator on several NIH R01 grants.



**Shirley A. Blanchard, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Occupational Therapy  
Creighton University  
Boyne 142  
2500 California Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68178  
Telephone: 402-280-5921  
Fax: 402-280-5692  
Email: [sblancha@creighton.edu](mailto:sblancha@creighton.edu)

***Research Interests***

My research interests include obesity and depression in African American women. I am investigating the use of faith-based institutions to prevent and reduce the health risks associated with obesity. By providing culturally relevant health education programs in the community of the church, African Americans are empowered to change health behaviors and, ultimately, to reduce health disparities.



## **Deidra C. Crews, M.D., Sc.M., FASN**

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Nephrology Associate Vice  
Chair for Diversity and Inclusion,  
Department of Medicine  
Director, Doctoral Diversity Program  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
301 Mason F. Lord Drive, Suite 2500  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
Telephone: 410-550-2820  
Fax: 410-550-7950  
Email: dcrews1@jhmi.edu

### ***Research Interests***

My core area of research addresses disparities in the care and outcomes of chronic kidney disease. I have examined the contribution of social determinants of health, including poverty and access to healthful foods, to disparities in kidney disease. My work in end-stage renal disease includes studies of the optimal timing and setting of dialysis initiation among vulnerable groups, and patient preparation for the start of renal replacement therapy.



**A. Celeste Farr, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences  
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine  
450 O'Dowd Hall  
2200 N. Squirrel Road  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401  
Telephone: 248-370-3665  
Fax: 248-370-4060  
Email: farr@oakland.edu

***Research Interests***

My goal and passion remains to encourage health care equity and eliminate health disparities among African Americans. My research goal is to reduce obesity and diabetes in the African American community, first through prevention of diabetes in women, and later through teaching the women how to affect the health of their families through lifestyle changes, such as diet changes, increased exercise, and improved nutrition. Because both obesity and diabetes transcend socioeconomic status, I plan to begin my work with women who are a bit more resource-rich by working with suburban, predominantly African American churches, and with graduate chapter sorority members. Eventually, I would like to work with more resource-challenged women and help them navigate their situations to successfully reduce obesity and diabetes. Obesity and diabetes are increasing rapidly within the African American community, but clearly both can be prevented. I want to be among those who show people how to protect and improve their health.



**Brandi E. Franklin, Ph.D., M.B.A.**

Assistant Professor, Health Outcomes and Policy Research  
The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy  
881 Madison Avenue, Room 213  
Memphis, TN 38163  
Telephone: 901-448-7234  
Fax: 901-448-7053  
Email: [beveret4@uthsc.edu](mailto:beveret4@uthsc.edu)

***Research Interests***

The incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) has increased rapidly in youth subsequent to the rise of childhood obesity. Progress in this field has been hampered in three ways: (1) a small, unevenly dispersed pediatric endocrine workforce relative to its growing patient base; (2) the lack of U.S. Food and Drug Administration–approved pharmacotherapies for treatment; and (3) scant empirical evidence for pediatric lifestyle and disease management. Specifically, I am interested in understanding how current care delivery systems can be enhanced to support youth in managing their diabetes without the need for continuous intervention by pediatric endocrinologists; in finding new therapeutic options for youth with chronic conditions such as T2DM; and in reducing barriers that hinder engagement in healthy lifestyle practices and diabetes self-management, especially for racial/ethnic minority youth. These three areas form the core of my current research program and my future research plans.

Through doctoral and postgraduate training, I have mastered a cadre of advanced statistical and pharmaco-economic methods that I incorporate into my research, including cost-effectiveness analysis and decision modeling, comparative effectiveness, and categorical and longitudinal data analysis. For the next 3 to 5 years, I have planned research projects that will evaluate medication use and outcomes, factors influencing disease severity and decline, and novel systems that support disease self-management in youth with T2DM. Longer term, my primary research goal is to develop and disseminate targeted, theory-driven interventions to enhance lifestyle behaviors in youth with chronic conditions like T2DM.



**Alethea Hill, Ph.D., M.S.N., ANP-BC**

Associate Professor/Adult Nurse Practitioner  
College of Nursing  
University of South Alabama  
5271 University Drive North, HAHN 4062  
Mobile, AL 36688  
Telephone: 251-455-4099  
Fax: 251-650-3804  
Email: amhill222@gmail.com

***Research Interests***

My research interests are prediabetic states and type 2 diabetes as a risk equivalent for cardiovascular disease. In addition, I am interested in the gender and racial/ethnic differences that exist when predicting the risk of type 2 diabetes and prediabetic states among African American women. I began my research career working with community and faith-based organizations focusing on diabetes self-management education and risk awareness projects. I plan to expand my research interest to investigate the associations between sleep duration/hygiene, dyslipidemia, and diabetes among African American populations.



## **Gayenell S. Magwood, Ph.D., RN, FAAN**

Professor  
Department College of Nursing  
Medical University of South Carolina  
99 Jonathan Lucas St MSC 160  
Phone: 843-792-0685  
Email: magwoodg@musc.edu

### ***Research Interests***

Research interests: My primary research focuses on socio-environmental, and bio-behavioral factors in the development and implementation of community based intervention research for multiple risk reduction related to cardiometabolics and diabetes prevention and control. My commitment to health disparities research includes maximizing community engagement/community-based participatory research to enhance community and systems change. I have combined my passion for advocacy with science to inform best practices for building, enhancing, and sustaining partnerships with communities; contributing expertise in the intersection of community and health systems aimed at improving outcomes and eliminating health disparities.

## **Vanessa Marshall, Ph.D., M.A.**

Research Health Scientist  
Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical  
Center  
10701 East Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
Phone: 216-791-3800 ext 2699  
Email: vanessa.marshall2@va.gov

### ***Research Interests***

My research interests include health disparities, health service research, community-based participatory research, clinical trials, interventions, quality improvement, evaluation and implementation science.



**Rocio I. Pereira, M.D.**

Staff Endocrinologist, Medicine Service  
Denver Health Medical Center  
660 Bannock Street, MC 4000  
Denver, CO 80204

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Phone: 303-602-0813  
Fax: 303-602-5055  
Email: [rocio.pereira@dhha.org](mailto:rocio.pereira@dhha.org)

***Research Interests***

My research focuses on the prevention and treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity among Latinos. I am the Program Director for a community-based Diabetes Prevention Program for Latinos and conduct research on clinical program implementation. I am also interested in mechanisms for insulin resistance and adipose tissue dysfunction.



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

Professor and Associate Dean for Research  
Petrock College of Health Sciences/Department of Public Health  
L. Gale Lemerand School of Nursing Building, Room 121  
Bethune-Cookman University  
739 W. International Speedway Boulevard  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
Telephone: 386-481-2596  
Email: [rahimwilliamsfb@cookman.edu](mailto:rahimwilliamsfb@cookman.edu)

### ***Research Interests***

As a biocultural applied medical anthropologist and a social and behavioral scientist, I investigate minority health and health disparities among individuals with chronic disease comorbidities. I have a specific interest in functional health status, symptom management, patient-centered health outcomes, and health-related quality of life among individuals with diabetes, HIV, gastrointestinal symptom disorders, and pain. I have research training as a Fellow of the Summer Institute on Aging Research, Fellow of the RAND Summer Institute on Aging Research, Fellow of the Health Equity Leadership Institute, and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Health Disparities Summit. I am a Disparities Research and Education Advancing the Mission (DREAM) Fellow with the NIMHD. The DREAM is a (K22) Career Transition Award funded by the NIMHD. The award supports intramural and extramural career training and development in health disparities research.



**Carolyn M. Tucker, Ph.D.**

Florida Blue Endowed Chair in Health Disparities Research,  
Distinguished Alumni Professor  
University of Florida  
Department of Psychology  
P.O. Box 112250  
Gainesville, FL 32611-2250  
Telephone: 352-273-2167  
Fax: 352-392-7985  
Email: cmtucker@ufl.edu

***Research Interests***

I use an academic-community partnership research approach and a community-based participatory research model. My research focuses on (1) culturally sensitive health promotion and health care to prevent and reduce obesity, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and colorectal cancer; (2) the integration of health promotion into medicine; and (3) community health empowerment to reduce health disparities that affect racial/ethnic minority and economically disadvantaged communities. My current research studies involve (1) developing and testing interventions to prevent and reduce obesity in at-risk communities; and (2) empirically examining the links between patient-centered, culturally sensitive health care and health outcomes among racial/ethnic minorities and the medically underserved. My health self-empowerment theory and Patient-Centered, Culturally Sensitive Health Care Model are widely used. I have more than 116 published refereed articles and one published book, and have received more than \$11 million in research grants.

I am proudest of the fact that under my mentorship, 54 doctoral students have received their Ph.D. degrees, and 50 graduate students have received their Master's degrees. Among my students, more than 40 percent are racial/ethnic minorities.



**Fern Jureidini Webb, Ph.D.**

Joint Faculty, Department of Epidemiology  
Associate Professor, Community Health and Family Medicine  
College of Public Health and Health Professions  
College of Medicine  
University of Florida  
1255 Lila Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32208  
Telephone: 904-383-1998  
Fax: 904-383-1937  
Email: fern.webb@jax.ufl.edu

***Research Interests***

My research agenda focuses on health intervention models, using community-based asset models to improve health behaviors and decrease health disparities among African Americans. My research interests include (1) implementing evidenced-based health programs in community settings to improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities among African Americans; and (2) developing a community-based participatory research agenda, where I collaborate with community organizations and community members to develop, implement, and evaluate programs designed specifically to meet the unique needs of African Americans living with chronic diseases. For example, I served as the Principal Investigator on the Winning Over Weight Wellness program (WOW Wellness) in 2010 designed to assist African American women and their families in incorporating simple behavioral changes into their everyday lives in efforts to decrease weight. In addition, my research now focuses on community-engaged research; I received an NIH diversity supplement to work with Dr. Linda Cottler's NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse (R01) grant, "Transformative Approach to Reduce Research Disparities Toward Drug Users" (2012-2014). Through this opportunity, I am learning how to conduct community-engaged research as am exploring the willingness of community members in northeast and central Florida to engage in research studies to improve chronic diseases and health outcomes.



**Lovoria B. Williams, Ph.D., APRN-BC**

Associate Professor  
College of Nursing  
Augusta University  
987 St. Sebastian Way, EC-4511  
Augusta, GA 30912  
Telephone: 706-721-4781  
Fax: 706-434-6899  
Email: lwilliams@augusta.edu

***Research Interests***

My research focus is health disparities. My interests are behavioral interventions developed through community-based participatory research interventions, obesity, physical activity, cardiovascular disease, and the development of sustainable translational interventions. Additional interests include stroke prevention and diabetes biomarkers predicting incident diabetes.



National Institute of  
Diabetes and Digestive  
and Kidney Diseases