

# ***Community Research Exchange 2022***

***.....Systematic approaches to incorporating  
community engagement across the translational spectrum***



**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
**8:30am – 3:00pm**



March 9, 2022

Dear Members of our Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the ACCEL Community Research Exchange 2022. This is the second year that we are conducting the Community Research Exchange event virtually. While not ideal, we continue to move forward in spite of COVID-19's impact with a focus on our mission to build statewide clinical and translational research infrastructure that will ultimately improve the health of Delawareans.

Under the leadership of our esteemed conference co-chairs, Drs. Karpyn, Saunders and Khan, the ACCEL Program is able to bring to you a conference focused on systematic approaches to incorporating community engagement across the translational spectrum. This topic is especially important in today's environment and directly relates to the DE-CTR ACCEL Program which is a Clinical and Translational Research award.

Translational research seeks to produce more meaningful, applicable results that directly benefit human health. The goal of translational research is to translate (move) basic science discoveries more quickly and efficiently into practice. In essence, we are helping to move laboratory discoveries towards treatments, ideally working in tandem with our communities to address their health needs. Clinical and translational research is essential to bringing research discoveries to all communities and improving health outcomes.

I am very grateful to our conference organizers for the careful attention paid to addressing community engagement across the translational spectrum. This continues to be the goal of the DE-CTR ACCEL Program and we'll continue to work towards community participation at every phase of research with the help of each and every one of you. If you're a researcher attending today, we hope you are better equipped to engage community partners in research questions that impact the health of our communities. If you are a community member attending today, we hope you can propose pressing health questions and collaborate with researchers in your community space to try to find answers.

Once again, welcome and enjoy today's events!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Hicks".

Gregory Hicks, PT, PhD, FAPTA  
Program Director, Principal Investigator



May 9, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We welcome you to the 2022 Community Engaged Research Exchange. This year, our work is marked by new thinking about how the research community and local stakeholder community can connect across the translational research spectrum. Indeed, as we begin to think about needs post quarantine and the COVID-19 pandemic, community-research partnerships are critical to addressing long standing disparities in health and health care, and in improving the efficacy of interventions and treatments. Community engagement can take different forms for different types of researchers and that the ways in which community needs, voice and partnerships develop can differ across the translational spectrum. From bench scientists studying inflammation to social scientists studying substance use behaviors, community engagement is perhaps more important now than ever.

We hope you enjoy this year's speakers, together they reflect a range of community engaged research topics from lessons learned and examples of collaborations in Puerto Rico, Minnesota, New York, and North Carolina, as well as Delaware. We also feature a range of content areas and approaches from topics related to strategies to address water quality to those committed to supporting parents whose children have congenital heart defect.

Again, we thank you for your participation this year and look forward to many rich discussions and new collaborations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allison Karpyn'.

Allison Karpyn, PhD  
Conference Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Omar Khan'.

Omar Khan, MD MHS FAAFP  
Conference Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marlene Saunders'.

Marlene Saunders DSW, MSW, LMSW  
Conference Co-Chair

## DE CTR ACCEL Program Community Research Exchange 2022

... Systematic approaches to incorporating community engagement  
across the translational spectrum

May 9, 2022



### 8:30am Welcome and Overview of the Day

#### Welcome

**David Edwards, PhD**

Program Coordinator

**Allison Karpyn, PhD**

Co-Chair, CRE Planning Committee

### Call to Action

Why Community Engaged Research Matters

**Gwendoline Angalet, PhD**

CEO of GBA Consulting

### Land Acknowledgement

**Lee Pachter, DO**

Community Engagement and Outreach Core Leader

### 9:00am Address from Governor Carney

**The Honorable John Carney**

Governor, State of Delaware

### 9:15am Keynote Address – Introduction by Lee Pachter, DO

Building Full Spectrum Translational Research Teams of Laboratory Investigators, Practicing Clinicians, Patients, and other Stakeholders

**Rhonda G. Kost, MD and Jonathan Tobin, PhD, FAHA, FACE**

Center for Clinical & Translational Science

The Rockefeller University

### 10:15 – 10:30am Break

### 10:30am Podium Project Presentations –Moderator: Omar Khan, MD, MSH, FAAFP

**AnnMarie Brescia, MD**

Synovial Biomarkers in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

**Shannon Virtue, Psy.D.**

A Patient-Centered Perspective on Managing Type 2 Diabetes during Breast Cancer Treatment

**Scott Siegel, PhD, MHCDS**

Pragmatic RCT of a Precision Pharmacotherapy Hospital-Based Smoking Cessation Intervention

**Katrina Morrison, EdD**

Exploring the Health of Black Girls in Delaware

11:45am

**Community Engaged Research Panel: Benefits, Challenges & Realities**  
**Moderator: Marlene Saunders, DSW, MSW, LMSW**

**Dorothy Dillard, PhD**

Director, Center for Neighborhood Revitalization and Research, Delaware State University

**Vicky Funanage, PhD**

Executive Director, Research, Nemours Children's Health

**Jennifer Sims-Mourtada, PhD**

Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Helen F. Graham Center, ChristianaCare

**Erica Sood, PhD**

Pediatric Psychologist, Nemours Children's Health, Delaware

12:45pm

**Lunch**

**Please enjoy viewing our virtual poster gallery which will be playing during this break.**

1:30pm

**Workshops**

**Latinx Health**

This workshop will explore the ways in which the Latino community is currently engaged in research in Delaware and hear from leadership of the CTR in Puerto Rico to share best practices, needs and strategies for engagement.

**Workshop Leaders: Edna Acosta Pérez, PhD, MSc**

Associate Professor, University of Puerto Rico

**Alicia Salvatore, DrPH, MPH**

Director of Community-Engaged Research, ChristianaCare

**Marizaida Sánchez-Cesáreo**

University of Puerto Rico

**Keishla Y. Hernández Vargas, M.A.,**

Instituto Tercera Mision (IM3) at Albizu University

**Moderator:**

Omar Khan, MD

**Environmental Justice and Community Engagement**

This workshop will focus on community engagement efforts to address environmental inequities. The presenters will share strategies, examples, lessons learned and effective approaches to addressing environmental issues of concern to community members, in partnership with researchers.

**Workshop Leaders: Omega and Brenda Wilson**

Co-Founders, West End Revitalization Association

**Ayo B. Wilson**

Director, West End Revitalization Association (WERA)

Clean Energy & Climate Justice Initiative

**Moderator:**

Marlene Saunders, DSW

**Facilitator:**

Cassandra Codes-Johnson, MPA

**Community Engagement Across the Translational Spectrum**

This workshop will address the earlier forms of translational research, how, when, and why community engagement matters, and provides exemplar strategies from two groups on the cutting edge of this work for discussion.

**Workshop Leaders: Dana Ketcher, PhD, MPH**

University of Minnesota Medical School

**Rhonda G. Kost, MD**

The Rockefeller University

**Jonathan N. Tobin, PhD, FAHA, FACE**

The Rockefeller University

**Moderator:** Lee Pachter, DO

**Facilitator:** Anuradha Hashemi, MPH

**Technical Presentation/ Grant Writing**

This workshop will walk through the basic ins and outs of grant writing and will provide a toolbox of resources that can help make the process simpler and less time consuming.

**Workshop Leaders: Allison Karpyn, PhD**

Co-Director, Center for Research Education & Social Policy  
University of Delaware

**Mia Papas, PhD, MS**

Chief Scientific Officer,  
Institute for Research on Equity and Community Health  
ChristianaCare

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*Call to Action:*  
*Why Community Engaged Research Matters*



**Gwendoline B. “Gwen” Angalet, PhD**, is the CEO of GBA Consulting, a management consulting firm providing professional services to clients in the public and not-for-profit sectors, helping them to lead and manage change and achieve improved results and lasting impact. Current projects include efforts to increase support to children, youth, and their families living in the city of Wilmington, to achieve academic success, promote positive development, and prevent violence. Gwen’s career in public service spans over three decades, most of which was in leadership and management roles in the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families and Nemours Children’s Health and Prevention Services. Additionally, Gwen serves on the boards of community non-profit organizations, including the Wilmington Hope Commission.



## Keynote Speakers

### *Building Full Spectrum Translational Research Teams of Laboratory Investigators, Practicing Clinicians, Patients, and other Stakeholders*



**Rhonda G. Kost, MD**

*Director,  
Clinical Research  
Support Office*

*Co-Director,  
Community Engaged*

*Research Core  
Vice-Chair,  
Rockefeller Institutional Review Board  
Associate Professor of Clinical Investigation  
**The Rockefeller University Center for  
Clinical Translational Science***



**Jonathan N. Tobin,  
PhD, FAHA, FACE**

*President/CEO,  
**Clinical Directors  
Network, Inc. (CDN)***

*Senior Epidemiologist & Adjunct Professor  
Co-Director, Community Engaged Research,  
Center for Clinical and Translational  
Science,*

**The Rockefeller University**  
*Professor, Department of Epidemiology &  
Population Health  
**Albert Einstein College of  
Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center***

For more than a decade, The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS), an NIH-NCATS Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) hub, has partnered with Clinical Directors Network (CDN), a practice-based research network (PBRN) and AHRQ-designated Center of Excellence (P30) for practice-based research and learning that works with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other safety-net practices serving low income and minority populations. The Rockefeller-CDN partnership has fostered the development and conduct of research that combines basic science and community-driven scientific aims across the full spectrum of translational research. Through regular ongoing monthly collaborative team meetings (hybrid in-person and online) and joint activities, and incorporating the principles of bi-directional community engagement, the community-engaged research navigation (CEnR-Nav) program and an established national primary care PBRN work together to develop basic science-community partnerships and have conducted several successful research projects. We have fostered Full Spectrum Translational Research community-academic partnerships, including several which have proven sustainable through multiple rounds of funding. Both community and academic stakeholders may initiate a community-engaged research project. The academic and community stakeholders, including laboratory investigators, clinical researchers, clinicians, patients, community-based organization staff, move sequentially through the stages of building a partnership, aligning aims, jointly developing protocols and funding applications, conducting the study, analyzing and disseminating the results, and preparing applications for additional funding, as well as addressing broader policy issues, to sustain and continue to expand the partnership over time.

By the end of the keynote lecture, participants will be able to:

- Describe key skills and examples of strategies to engage communities in early translational research
- Describe how to develop and strengthen collaborations among academic and community stakeholders to set research priorities and enhance study design in early translational research
- Identify practices and factors that are essential to the successful integration of community members in early translational research and the integration of laboratory investigators into community-engaged research projects

**Rhonda G. Kost, MD**, is Director of the Clinical Research Support Office, Co-Director the [Community Engaged Research Core](#), Vice-Chair of the Rockefeller Institutional Review Board, and Associate Professor of Clinical Investigation in The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical Translational Science. Through her research she has developed models and evidence-based measures of the research process that reflect the values of the stakeholders. She co-led the development of the Rockefeller Community-Engaged Research Navigation model, an approach to foster sustainable research partnerships between basic scientists and affected communities, and to align the aims of community-engaged and mechanistic researchers to design and conduct Full Spectrum Translational Research (FSTR), with meaningful outcomes for each collaborator. She has collaborated on FSTR projects to address community-acquired antibiotic resistant bacterial infections, bariatric surgery, nutritional approaches to hypertension in seniors, and others. She is the Principal Investigator for [Empowering the Participant Voice](#), a multi-site NCATS-funded study to streamline robust adoption of and national benchmarking with the Research Participant Perception Survey (RPPS), a validated set of participant-centered measures of the research experience, used to drive improvements in the clinical enterprise. Dr. Kost collaborates with the Vanderbilt-led Recruitment Innovation Center, and recently completed an HHS/Administration for Aging-funded community-engagement and nutrition-innovation grant with the Carter Burden Network and Clinical Directors Network to test implementation of evidence-based interventions to lower blood pressure among community living seniors. She was a committee member and co-author of the July 2018 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee Report, *Returning Individual Research Results to Participants: Guide for a New Research Paradigm*.

Dr. Kost received her M.D. from Harvard Medical School, completed internal medicine residency training at Yale, infectious diseases subspecialty training at Case Western Reserve, and served as a Medical Staff Fellow at the National Institutes of Health, NIAID, in the Virology Section. Prior to joining Rockefeller, she designed and conducted clinical trials at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center.

**Jonathan N. Tobin, PhD**, is a cardiovascular epidemiologist and President/CEO of Clinical Directors Network, Inc. (CDN [www.CDNetwork.org](http://www.CDNetwork.org)), a NYC-based practice-based research network (PBRN) and AHRQ-designated Center of Excellence (P30) for Practice-based Research and Learning and a network of safety-net PBRNs ("N2-PBRN") dedicated to improving clinical outcomes for low income and medically underserved communities by creating community-academic partnerships around research, education/training and service. Dr. Tobin is also the Co-Director for Community-Engaged Research, senior epidemiologist and Adjunct Professor at The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science ([www.Rockefeller.edu/research/community-engagement](http://www.Rockefeller.edu/research/community-engagement)), and he also holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center.

Dr. Tobin has served as Principal or Co-Principal Investigator on grants funded by PCORI, AHRQ, NIH (NIMH, NHLBI, NCATS, NIDDK, NCI, NIAID, NIDCR, NIDA, NINR), SAMHSA, EPA, CDC, HRSA and ACL to conduct comparative effectiveness and implementation studies related to pregnancy, behavior, depression, PTSD, stress, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, clinical preventive services including cancer screening and immunizations, MRSA, Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS, all designed to study translating research into practice for the enhancement of health equity and the improvement of public health.

Dr. Tobin has served on NIH, AHRQ and PCORI Study sections, and on the Governing or Scientific Review Boards of a number of foundations (International Society of Hypertension in Blacks, Public Health Association of New York City, Langeloth Foundation, Campbell Foundation) and on the editorial boards of several journals (*Progress in Community Health Partnerships*, *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*) and as a scientific reviewer (*Annals of Family Medicine*, *Health Psychology*, *Implementation Science*, *American Journal of Public Health*). Under Dr. Tobin's leadership at CDN, over 600 Federally Qualified Health Centers, 1,000 physicians, and nearly 400,000 patients have been recruited into clinical trials and observational studies and over 1000 CME-accredited free online courses have been produced for clinicians who practice in medically underserved communities in an online library ([www.CDNetwork.org/Library](http://www.CDNetwork.org/Library)).

## Podium Presentations

**AnneMarie Brescia, MD**, Nemours Children's Health

Community Engaged Clinical and Translational Research Pilot Projects Program Award



Dr. Brescia received her medical education at the New York University (NYU) School of Medicine and completed training in Pediatrics at St Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. The research years of her fellowship were conducted in the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Research at the NIH. After completing fellowship training in pediatric rheumatology at Thomas Jefferson University/ AI duPont Hospital for Children, she became faculty of that institution and is currently Chief of the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology. Dr Brescia divides her time between clinical care and translational research and is the fellowship director of the pediatric rheumatology training program.

The main goal of her research program is to identify synovial fluid biomarkers (proteins) which can predict course and prognosis in JIA. Having biomarkers to predict likely course of disease will allow physicians to give patients and families more information on which to base treatment decisions. In addition, she is studying several pathways which may contribute to bony over growth and leg length discrepancies in JIA. Understanding these pathways may lead to new treatment options.

### Synovial Biomarkers in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

**Lay Statement:** Development of testable biomarker panels allows us to provide families and patients with more complete information regarding prognosis and to make more informed decisions regarding treatment strategies. Addressing JIA as early as possible to prevent joint damage will in turn significantly improve the long-term functional outcome and life enjoyment of children with arthritis. Patients and families are already engaged in the consent/assent process and we will solicit specific unanswered questions to inform our future research.

**Scientific Abstract:** Dr. Brescia's project focuses on causes of disability in Oligoarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), the most common subtype of the most common rheumatic disease of childhood. Disability can result from extension to a polyarticular course, termed extended oligoarticular disease. Since disease progression increases the risk for disability, early prediction of this course is essential; unfortunately, no reliable clinical or laboratory predictors have been established. Within this proposal, Dr. Brescia will validate additional candidate synovial biomarkers that she has developed to predict disease progression from persistent to extended oligoarticular JIA (Aim 1). This will involve testing new candidate biomarkers by ELISA on an institutional and then on a larger, independent cohort of well-characterized existing samples from a collaborating institution. Promising biomarkers will be added to our rapid through-put multiplex Luminex platform to test multiple biomarkers simultaneously. Additionally, we will define subpopulation of fibroblast-like synoviocytes in the synovial fluid and correlate percentages of subpopulations with clinical outcome (Aim 2). Synovial fluid and serum biomarkers will lead to better risk stratification and more effective targeting of therapeutics. Completion of these aims will lead to a larger, prospective study in which the rapid assessment of synovial fluid and serum samples early in the course of disease will be used to predict disease course.

**Shannon Virtue, Psy.D**, ChristianaCare  
Clinical and Translational Pilot Program Award



Shannon Virtue, PsyD is Associate Program Director of Psychology Training at ChristianaCare and licensed clinical psychologist at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute with over ten years of clinical experience in psycho-oncology. Dr. Virtue received her doctorate in clinical psychology from La Salle University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in psycho-oncology at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Cooper Cancer Institute. Dr. Virtue has been engaged in various grant-funded research projects focused on psychological interventions for oncology patients. Most recently, she received a Mentored Research Development Award (MRDA) in 2019 and a DE-CTR ACCEL pilot grant in 2021 for her research on comorbid breast cancer and type 2 diabetes. She is also a co-investigator on an NIH U01 grant examining the efficacy of an internet-based intervention for dental anxiety. Dr. Virtue also serves on the Research Committee for the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (APAHC).

**A Patient-Centered Perspective on Managing Type 2 Diabetes during Breast Cancer Treatment**

**Lay Statement:** There is a need to have patient input to best support women with type 2 diabetes receiving breast cancer treatment.

**Scientific Abstract:** Breast cancer and type 2 diabetes (T2D) are both prevalent chronic health problems with profound individual and public health impact, as well as disparities. An estimated 16% of patients diagnosed with breast cancer have a comorbid diagnosis of T2D. To date, research on breast cancer and T2D has focused on common risk factors, biological processes, and the impact of diabetes on cancer treatment and outcomes. There is limited research focused on patient-reported outcomes and perspectives regarding the management of T2D while undergoing breast cancer treatment. The current research aims to close the gap by examining behavioral management of diabetes during cancer treatment and patient-reported barriers and support needs. The mixed methods study includes quantitative survey data on diabetes self-management behaviors across three months of breast cancer treatment and qualitative interviews to explore patient perspectives on managing diabetes during breast cancer treatment. Preliminary data suggested that patients sometimes engaged in recommended diabetes self-care ( $M = 2.18$ ). A quarter never/rarely “exercise,” 48% never “carry quick acting sugar to treat low blood glucose,” and 57% never “keep food records.” There is a need to better understand patient perspectives on diabetes management during breast cancer treatment in order to develop targeted interventions and community efforts that support diabetes care during cancer treatment.



**Scott Siegel, PhD, MHCDS**, ChristianaCare  
Clinical and Translational Pilot Program Award



Scott D. Siegel, Ph.D., MHCDS, is a licensed psychologist and the Director of Population Health Research within the Institute for Research on Equity and Community Health (iREACH) at ChristianaCare. In this role, Dr. Siegel works collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams to address the leading behavioral risk factors that contribute to health disparities and population health outcomes. Dr. Siegel also holds appointments at the University of Delaware, the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, and the Wistar Institute. Dr. Siegel is an author on 70 peer-reviewed research articles, book chapters, and published abstracts and has been an investigator on multiple federal grants funded by the National

Cancer Institute. He completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in clinical health psychology at the University of Miami and a M.S. in health care policy at Dartmouth.

### **A Pragmatic RCT of a Recision Pharmacotherapy Hospital-Based Smoking Cessation Intervention**

**Lay Statement:** Tobacco use is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States (US), disproportionality affecting racial minorities and those with low socioeconomic status. A long-term objective of the proposed research is to improve the reach and impact of smoking cessation interventions for the underserved. This pilot will test how to best translate an evidence-based precision pharmacotherapy approach to treating tobacco use disorder into a real-world hospital-based program to improve smoking cessation rates.

**Scientific Abstract:** Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States (US) and Delaware, claiming more than 400,000 US lives each year. Tobacco use disorder (TUD), or the long-term problematic use of tobacco, has been recognized by the American Psychiatric Association as a substance use/behavioral health condition. The burdens of TUD disproportionately affect racial minorities and those with low socioeconomic status (SES), thereby contributing to tobacco-related health disparities (TRHDs). Underserved smokers are no less interested in quitting smoking and make just as many quit attempts as more advantaged smokers but are less likely to be advised to quit, have less access to treatment, use evidence-based treatments less frequently, report greater concerns about the safety of these medications, and ultimately experience lower abstinence rates. Hospital-based smoking cessation interventions have the potential to reach large segments of this underserved population. A Cochrane review found that hospital-based interventions significantly increase smoking cessation rates after discharge compared to usual care; however, rates rarely exceed 25%. Promising new evidence suggests that applying a precision pharmacotherapy approach based on a commercially available, genetically informed marker of nicotine metabolism rate can significantly improve cessation outcomes. Evidence from multiple independent studies, including a recent randomized clinical trial (RCT), demonstrates that matching slow metabolizers of nicotine with the nicotine patch and fast metabolizers of nicotine with varenicline can maximize treatment response and minimize side effects. While encouraging, a critical gap in knowledge is how to best translate a precision pharmacotherapy approach into a hospital-based smoking cessation intervention and improve cessation rates for underserved smokers. Preliminary data suggest that personalized treatment recommendations may increase TUD medication uptake and effectiveness. Thus, the scientific premise of this application is that integrating a precision pharmacotherapy approach into a hospital-based TUD treatment program will increase medication uptake and effectiveness, with particular relevance for smokers from underserved communities.

**Katrina Morrison, EdD, University of Delaware**  
ACCEL Strategic Initiative Partnership Program (ASIPP) Award



Dr. Katrina K. Morrison, Ed.D., is a Policy Scientist at the Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP). She serves as PI for the HRSA-funded Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) evaluation and DHSS-funded State of Our Union: Delaware Black Girls Project, and is collaborating on state policy projects including DSAAPD Vaccine Access; IES College Readiness; and DDOE Stateline Opportunity to Learn.

Prior to her role at CRESP, Dr. Morrison led projects on out-of-school-time programming; arts integration in high school courses; and Delaware DPAS-II teacher and specialist evaluations. She has also served as a Data Analyst for The Civil Rights Project and Health Research Lead for Project HOME. Dr. Morrison has been a Lecturer at Drexel University and UPenn as well as a K-12 teacher supervisor and classroom teacher in the School District of Philadelphia.

### Exploring the Health of Black Girls in Delaware

**Lay Statement:** There is a need for more research about Black girls to inform social, health, and education policies. We conducted a study to learn more about the lived experiences of Black girls in the state of Delaware. A total of 186 Black girls took a survey that asked about their sleep, eating and exercise habits, connections to family, school, and their neighborhoods, how they view themselves, and their experiences with racism. Also, 70 girls took a survey that asked about these topics. The results were used to make recommendations for supporting the health of Black girls in Delaware.

**Scientific Abstract:** In June 2020, the Delaware Clinical and Translational Research Program (DE-CTR) supported a partnership between the Delaware Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NC100BW-DE), the University of Delaware's (UD) Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC), Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS), UD's Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP) and Delaware State University (DSU) Women and Gender Studies through its ACCEL Strategic Initiatives Partnership Program (ASIPP). Together, these institutions and organizations made up a Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) Research-Practice Partnership.

The CRESP team administered the HPDP survey online from June 2020 to September 2020 and from March 2021 to May 2021. In total, 186 girls consented to complete the survey. In addition, the CRESP team conducted 37 virtual individual or focus group interviews with a total of 70 girls. Descriptive analyses of survey data and thematic analyses of interview data revealed several findings. Survey results showed concerning findings related to sleep, electronics use, and self-consciousness about appearance. Furthermore, findings suggested that girls perceived little support from adults in their neighborhoods, but strong support from families and friends. Girls also indicated experiences with racism.

Interview findings showed that facilitators to physical health were family, motivation, time, and access. Interview findings showed girls received support from families and friends, but there were a few girls who indicated that they relied on themselves for support.

These findings have implications for policymakers and community members who could help improve mental health resources and social activities available to Black girls. Moreover, Delaware could increase initiatives that uplift Black girls and events that encourage exercise, fruit and vegetable consumption, and overall healthy behaviors.

## Panel Discussion

### Community Engaged Research Panel: Benefits, Challenges and Realities

Community and researchers working together as partners to identify solutions to problems that impact well-being of people and communities is central to the DE-CTR ACCEL project. However, achieving the objectives of community engaged researcher presents unique opportunities as well as challenges. The purpose of this panel is to give researchers and community the opportunity to talk about achieving the benefits of community engaged research in the face of challenges associated with it.



**Dorothy Dillard, PhD**, earned her Doctorate at the University of Delaware in 1994. She is a sociologist and consultant with academic expertise in substance abuse treatment, racial disparities, disparities in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and offender programming. Dr. Dillard has over 30 years researching, evaluating, and teaching and served as Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Delaware State University from 2014 to 2019. As Director of the DSU Center for Neighborhood Revitalization and Research (CNRR), she is responsible for developing and overseeing practice research partnerships across a range of areas. The CNRR engages students, faculty, service providers, and neighborhood residents in the research and decision-making process through research practice partnerships. Dr. Dillard currently serves as the lead research partner with the REACH Riverside (Wilmington, Delaware), Restoring Central Dover (Dover, Delaware), and the Dover Project Safe Neighborhood revitalization efforts. She is PI on a TMCF/CAO study examining criminal and juvenile justice reform needs, and on a Delaware Department of Correction evaluation of the KEY-CREST program. She serves on the RCD Steering Committee, the Healthy Communities Delaware Leadership Council, the SCHC Behavioral Health Task Group, SCHC Board of Directors, and the I Am My Sister's Keeper Board of Directors. Dr. Dillard is a Delaware Community Foundation Equity Fellow and a member of the Delaware Board of Parole.

Dr. Dillard has extensive experience developing and administering practice research partnerships in both large scale and smaller projects. Dr. Dillard has served as Co-Principal Investigator on several large NIDA funded research grants, including an effectiveness study of a prison based therapeutic community continuum of treatment (Key-Crest). In 1994, after leaving the University of Delaware's Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies as the Associate Director, she created a consulting business working with federal and state governments as well as nonprofit agencies. As a consultant, she leveraged over \$12 million in federal funds to assist Delaware social service providers improve and expand programs. Each of these practice research projects advanced service delivery by incorporating data-based decision making. Dr. Dillard has published numerous articles and has a national reputation as an expert in social service program evaluation, minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice systems, integrated





**Vicky L. Funanage, PhD**, is a molecular geneticist who joined Nemours Children's Health in July 1981. She holds faculty positions at Sidney Kimmel Medical College/Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Delaware. Dr. Funanage was appointed to the position of Operational Vice President/Executive Director of Research in 2014, having served as Director of Biomedical Research for Nemours Children's since June 2000 and Director of Medical Research in the Delaware Valley since December 1998. She also is the Director of the CLIA-certified Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, Head of the Musculoskeletal Inherited Disease Laboratory, and one of the strategic leads for the Precision Medicine Program at Nemours.

Dr. Funanage received her M.S. in Genetics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1977, and her Ph.D in Biological Sciences from the University of Delaware in 1981. Her undergraduate degree is from The Pennsylvania State University (1975). She has received numerous honors, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award in Biological Sciences from the University of Delaware, the Bleyer Family Humanitarian Award from the Huntington's Disease Society, and the Academic Research Award from the Delaware Bioscience Association. Dr. Funanage also holds six U.S. patents and one international patent for her research work.



**Jennifer Sims-Mourtada, PhD**, is a lead research scientist and the Director of Translational Breast Cancer Research in the Center for Translational Cancer Research. Dr. Sims-Mourtada earned her doctorate in Immunology in 2004 from University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston and completed her post-doctoral training in the Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Prior to joining ChristianaCare in 2011, she was the director of research and development for RadioMedix Inc., a biotechnology company in Houston TX. She is an Affiliated Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of

Delaware and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia. She chairs the steering committee for the Center for Translational Cancer Research (CTCR) at the Helen F Graham Cancer Center and Research Institute and oversees the Community Research Advisory Board for the translational research program.



**Erica Sood, PhD** is a pediatric psychologist at Nemours Children's Health and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Sood's research focuses on partnering with patient and family stakeholders to identify unmet needs, generate recommendations for psychosocial care, and design interventions to improve psychosocial and neurodevelopmental outcomes. She recently led a team across eight health systems to design HEARTPrep, a psychosocial intervention to improve parent and family wellbeing following prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease. Dr. Sood is an Immediate Past Chair of the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative, Fellow of Division 54 (Society of Pediatric Psychology) of the American Psychological

Association, and a medical advisor to the Conquering CHD and Mended Little Hearts patient advocacy organizations.

## Workshops

### Lantinx Health

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the ways in which the Latino community is currently engaged in research in Delaware and to hear from leadership of the CTR in Puerto Rico to share best practices, needs and strategies for engagement.



**Edna Acosta- Pérez PhD, MSc** Assistant Professor, Graduate School Public Health. Social and Community Researcher at the Behavioral Sciences Research Institute, the Hispanic Alliance for Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Puerto Rico (PR), and Albizu University. Dr. Acosta, a mid-career researcher, is the Leader of the Community Research and Engagement Core of the Alliance and Coordinator of the Community Research Initiative of Puerto Rico Alliance for the Advancement of Biomedical Research Excellence where she promotes community-campus partnerships and collaborations as models for promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and translational research. Dr. Acosta-Pérez received a PhD in psychology (2005) and a post-doctoral MSc in clinical research (2009) at the University of Puerto Rico. She was certified as a Community Based Participatory Researcher by the University of New México and has been involved in epidemiology and implementation research in: Health Promotion/ Prevention, Mental Health, Asthma, Sexuality, Violence, Disaster and Obesity across human lifespan. Currently, she is directing to initiatives in maternal-paternal-infant-child health, teenage pregnancy prevention, COVID-19 awareness, testing and vaccination in elderly and rural communities, and inclusion of minorities and vulnerable communities in research.



**Keishla Y. Hernández Vargas, M.A.**, holds a master's degree in Social-Community Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico. Currently, Hernández-Vargas is a program advisor in the strategic planning area of the Instituto Tercera Mision (IM3) at Albizu University. She also works as a legal advocate and consultant in cases of gender violence.

Hernández-Vargas has worked steadily on gender and violence issues since 2015. She has experience working with victims/survivors of violence in judicial settings, help lines, and shelters.

During the last year and a half, she collaborates with various projects providing strategic planning support.



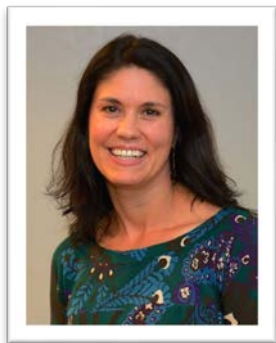
**Marizaida Sánchez Cesáreo, Ph.D.** holds a doctorate in Clinical-Community Psychology with a minor in Women Studies from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. Currently, Sánchez-Cesáreo is the Executive Director of Instituto Tercera Misión (IM<sup>3</sup>) at Albizu University and the Director of the Division of Community Services (DCS) at the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Puerto Rico.

Sánchez-Cesáreo has worked in the prevention field since 1989. She has extensive expertise in program development, program evaluation, capacity building, technical assistance, community based-research and evidence-based interventions.

For the last 13 years her work has focused in the promotion of policies, practices and program that aim to facilitate the optimal development of children, youth and families by addressing health disparities that affect their lives. It is noteworthy that in collaboration with community partners, currently her team is implementing 15 evidence-based interventions. Implementing over 50 projects that have impacted over 50 thousand citizens and generated employment of over 2,000 people. Projects serving in the developmental continuum. Projects that aligning science, practice, and policy to advance health equity and well-being.

All her projects are based on the principle of **Collective Impact**. Based in the premise that sustainable social change comes from purposeful work of a tryad comprise of **implementer, investor, scientific partner**.

In the last 13 years her team raised **\$41 million** in external funding. Her current portfolio amounts to 13 million dollars and includes 36 community-based evaluation, implementation and research project funded by government agencies in the United States and Puerto Rico, as well as by private human service organizations seeking to respond to evaluation questions of importance to improve their policies or programs.



**Alicia Salvatore, DrPH, MPH**, is the Director of Community-Engaged Research at the ChristianaCare Institute for Research on Equity and Community Health (iREACH), an Affiliated Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware and a DE-CTR ACCEL Scholar and CEO Core lead for ChristianaCare. She has expertise in public and population health, intervention and implementation science, mixed methods, and community-engaged and community-based participatory research. Dr. Salvatore's research examines and addresses social and environmental determinants of health and health disparities. She partners closely with the ChristianaCare Office of Health Equity and other health system, university, and community

collaborators to develop and assess the impacts of social and health interventions. These include social needs screening and referral interventions, community health worker programs, Food is Medicine programs, studies of environmental and social conditions and others.

Dr. Salvatore's research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and foundations. She has a bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College, a Master in Public Health in Health Behavior from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a Doctor of Public Health degree from the School of Public Health at the University of California Berkeley. She completed a NHLBI-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the Stanford Prevention Research Center and was a faculty member at the Stanford School of Medicine and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center prior to joining ChristianaCare.

## Environmental Justice and Community Engagement

This workshop will focus on community engagement efforts to address environmental inequities. The presenters will share strategies, examples, lessons learned and effective approaches to addressing environmental issues of concern to community members, in partnership with researchers.



**Omega R. Wilson** and **Brenda A. Wilson** are Co-founders of the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in 1994 of Mebane, NC. WERA incorporated as a 501-(c)(3) non-profit in 1995. Mission: Support access to “basic public health amenities” (safe drinking water, sewer lines, housing, streets, sidewalks, and storm-water management) for people of color and marginalized communities. Federal administrative complaints were filed to support first-time infrastructure installation under the Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, etc. WERA supports primarily African American and Native American heritage communities: West End, White Level, Kimrey Road / Hawfields in Alamance County, and Buckhorn, Perry Hill, and

Cheeks Cross in Orange County. February 1999 & Sept 2014: WERA filed complaints at U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and referenced the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 - 1994, to challenge the planned 8-lane interstate corridor that would destroy two historic African American and Native American communities in Mebane, NC. DOJ directed six branches of the federal government to investigate their lack of oversight of civil rights and public health guidelines during the highway planning process that had been going on for 16 years without opportunities for public input. The highway construction was placed on moratorium from 1999 to 2016. More than 100 homeowners, out of 500, have since had sewer lines installed for the first time and dirt streets paved, even though homes have been within two blocks of Mebane’s municipal sewer treatment plant since it was constructed in 1921. Omega served as a “community perspective” member of EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (2007-2010). The EPA publication “Information to Action: Strengthening EPA Citizen Science Partnerships for Environmental Protection” (April 2018) features a case study on WERA community-owned and managed research (COMR) model. Omega and Brenda served on the National Citizen Science CitSci-2019 Conference’s Environmental Justice Planning Committee (2017-2019), Raleigh, NC. In the AARP Bulletin-April 2019, both are featured as “senior citizen – citizen scientists” for collaborative problem-solving that “addresses human being in their environment.” Omega R Wilson: BA in Radio-TV-Film 1973, Shaw University, Raleigh, NC; MA in Mass Communications 1974, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; PhD Coursework ABD in Mass Communications 1976, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Brenda A Crosby-Wilson: BA in Education 1974, Shaw University, Raleigh, NC; MAED in Special Education 1980, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. Honors: Florenza Moore Award from North Carolina Environmental Justice Network – 2002, USEPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award-2008, Alamance County-NAACP “Environmental & Social Justice Award”- 2016, American Public Health Association’s Environmental Section “Damu Smith Award” - 2021



Over the course of his life, **Ayo B. Wilson** has lived and worked in impacted frontline communities in North Carolina and Ohio, and used his skills in nonprofit management, organizational management and development, and community organizing to support and empower impacted people through the arts, climate/environmental justice, and health/group fitness. In 2013, he traveled to Liberia, where he analyzed and provided recommendations for a national land records digitization project managed by Liberia's Center for National Land Documents and Records Agency funded by the World Bank. He is Director of Clean Energy and Climate Justice at West End Revitalization Association, an organization founded in 1994 by his parents and concerned neighbors in the community where he was raised. He holds a B.S. in Communication, Electronic Media/Broadcasting from Appalachian State University and a Masters in Public Administration, cum laude from NC Central University. He serves on the Board of Directors as co-chair for NC Climate Justice Collective, Haw River Assembly and NC WARN, and co-chair of the FRESH Energy Working Group of Southeast Climate & Energy Network (SCEN). With his brother, Omari Wilson, Esq., he has taught Zumba and group fitness classes in North Carolina, Texas, and virtually in conjunction with climate/environmental justice work as TwinZIN Fitness.



## Community Engagement Across the Translational Spectrum

Fostering community connection, integrating the needs, perspectives and voice of community representatives can take on different forms across the T1-T4 research spectrum. Building on the principles and examples presented in the morning Keynote session, in the afternoon workshop, participants will have an opportunity to practice some of the principles discussed in the plenary by identifying additional partners, priorities, and research questions that will help to expand their existing studies into full-spectrum translational research studies.



**Dana Ketcher, PhD, MPH** is currently a Senior Research Associate for Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MKMDT) – University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, joining the team in September 2021. She received her PhD (Applied Medical Anthropology, 2019) and MPH (Global Communicable Disease, 2011) from the University of South Florida. She completed an NIH funded T32 postdoctoral training program in Behavioral Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, under the mentorship of Drs. Susan Vadaparampil and Maija Reblin from 2019-2021.

At this time, Dr. Ketcher is working on the NIH/NIA funded Indigenous Cultural Understandings of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias-Research and Engagement (ICARE) R01 project and provides support for the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN). She also helps lead the Research Core at MKMDT through her supervision and support of qualitative analysis for projects in both Indigenous and rural health.

### **Rhonda G. Kost, MD**

The Rockefeller University

### **Jonathan Tobin, PhD, FAHA, FACE**

The Rockefeller University

## Technical Presentation / Grant Writing

Could you use a grant writing refresher? Do you need some tips and tricks to structure your grants and write them in a compelling way, without over promising? This workshop will walk through the basic ins and outs of grant writing and will provide a toolbox of resources that can help make the process simpler and less time consuming.



**Allison Karpyn, PhD** is Co-Director of the University of Delaware's Center for Research in Education and Social Policy and Associate Professor in the Department of the Human Development and Family Sciences. Allison is an expert on nutrition security policy and program evaluation methods and studies topics related to hunger, obesity, school food, supermarket access, food insecurity, healthy corner stores; and, strategies to develop and maintain farmer's markets in low income areas. She is a community-engaged scholar with hands-on experience working with community-based agencies and institutions, including non-profit organizations and retailers. Dr. Karpyn earned her Bachelor's degree in Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University and her Doctorate in Policy Research Evaluation and Measurement at The University of Pennsylvania and lives at home with her husband and 4 children.



**Mia Papas, PhD, MS** is the Chief Scientific Officer of the ChristianaCare Institute for Research on Equity and Community Health. Dr. Papas' expertise is the design and conduct of research that utilizes real-world evidence to understand disease disparities, examine the equitable delivery of healthcare, evaluate treatments, and demonstrate the impact of healthcare innovations and interventions. She is actively engaged in research that leverages data from electronic health records, administrative claims, registries, and government databases to answer critical questions about disease epidemiology and burden. Through a focus on real world evidence, she works toward bridging the gap between clinical and translational research, advancements in the quality of care, and improved population health outcomes for all.

Dr. Papas received her PhD in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles, obtained funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and presented her research at over 125 national and international conferences. Dr. Papas has analytic expertise in experimental and observational study designs, the assessment of validity and reliability of screening tools, generalized and hierarchical linear modeling, and the use of geographical information systems in understanding the effect of place on health and health behaviors. She has been an active member of the American Public Health Association and the American College of Epidemiology for over 15 years and is a Founding Board Member for the Delaware Public Health Association. She is a newly elected member of the Board of the American College of Epidemiology. She has also taught the principles of epidemiology throughout the world. She is a native Delawarean and lives in Newark with her husband and two children.

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## **Poster Gallery Links and Abstracts**

1. **David Chen, MD, MPH**, ChristianaCare

*Implementation of Hospital Violence Intervention Program in Delaware*

David D. Chen MD MPH, Vanessa Santiago MS, Leonard Mason MD, Toba Bolaji DO, Danielle Sofia, Kevin M. Bradley MD, Erin Booker LPC

Clinical and Translational Pilot Program Award

[Chen ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** Many who are victims of assault with serious bodily injuries still face challenges to receiving healthcare even after leaving the hospital. Hospital Violence Intervention Programs (HVIP) are a new type of program that connects assaulted patients, especially those not involved with domestic or intimate partner violence, with services and treatment for medical care as well as many other factors related to health, such as employment, financial help, legal assistance, and others. We describe the early results in implementing a new HVIP at ChristianaCare Health System in learning how to better engage patients and what the needs most important to them may be. We found that patients met at the bedside were much more willing to connect than those approached by phone, and that safety, finances, and healthcare access were common (but not universal) concerns.

**Scientific Abstract:** Background: Intentionally violent trauma not related to domestic violence carries high morbidity and mortality yet those affected are often disconnected from traditional healthcare systems. We describe initial engagement results for implementation of a Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIPs), an emerging strategy to serve assault-injured patients with community-based intensive case management.

Methods: Patients presenting for acute care to ChristianaCare Health System were identified by electronic medical record methods. Eligible patients were approached for enrollment by a violence-specialized community health worker and social worker team. Program data was recorded in REDCap.

Results: From February – September 2021, 143 eligible patients were identified; of patients approached at bedside (N = 37), 65% consented to further contact compared to those approached by phone (N = 106) with 16% consented. 39 patients completed enrollment with the most common social determinants of health concerns as interpersonal safety (49%), financial instability (41%), and healthcare access (33%).

***A statement about the research's relevance for communities and/or mode of community engagement.***

Some research studies have shown Hospital Violence Intervention Programs can be effective in improving the health of patients who come to the hospital for treatment of violent intentional trauma. However, such programs work through an intensive case management model and low rates of engagement & follow up have been described. We describe our experiences in process improvement in identifying eligible patients, rates of enrollment, & patient-identified social determinant of health concerns. We found bedside engagement to be much more effective than by phone call outreach, and that many but not all patients identified interpersonal safety, financial instability, and healthcare access as significant concerns. Future work will describe patient-identified outcomes of needs and success in meeting them.

PI contact information: [dchen@christianacare.org](mailto:dchen@christianacare.org)

2. **McKenna Halverson**, University of Delaware  
*Evaluating the Outcomes of the Village Tree Food Desert Community Partnership*  
McKenna Halverson, Cecelia Rich, James Wallace, Allison Karpyn, PhD

[Halverson ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** This study assessed the impact of a Save-A-Lot closure on Wilmington, DE residents' healthy food access and neighborhood perceptions. Our findings could improve food access for this community.

**Scientific Abstract:** In 2021, approximately 1 in 9 individuals experienced food insecurity in Delaware, placing them at risk for adverse health outcomes. In partnership with the Village Tree Inc., we evaluated the impact of the recent closure of a Save-A-Lot in Wilmington, Delaware on residents' healthy food access.

**Method:** We conducted 31 surveys with Wilmington residents inquiring about food security, neighborhood perceptions, and healthy food access.

**Results:** Most participants were food insecure (87.1%) and concerned about the changes occurring in the community (74.2%). Additionally, 67.7% reported that their neighborhood lacked places to get healthy food, and 61.3% faced challenges without a local grocery store in the area. Participants report that having more stores that sell fruits and vegetables (FV) and more money would make eating FV easier. Findings suggest that communities continue to feel discriminated against, which is evidenced by the vandalization of the Save-a-Lot during the BLM movement, indicating the importance of needs assessments to support healthy communities.

**Relevance for Communities:** Our findings may improve policymakers' understanding of the needs of this population and could potentially improve food access for this community.

PI contact information: [mhalvers@udel.edu](mailto:mhalvers@udel.edu)

3. **Laura Lessard, PhD**, University of Delaware  
*Evaluation of Shining the Light on You: Using Community Engaged Approaches to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Family Child Care Professionals*  
Sarah Albrecht, Rena Hallam, Kyma Fulgence, Eric Plautz, Laura Lessard PhD, MPH

[Lessard ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** This research focuses on the design and effectiveness of the Shining the Light on You program, which focuses on improving health and well-being for family child care professionals. Our evaluation approach focuses on interviews with past participants to understand their perceptions of the impact of the program on their health and their interactions with children and families. Our interviews have suggested that the program improves health and wellbeing.

**Scientific Abstract:** **Background:** Family child care (FCC) professionals face challenges to optimal health and wellbeing. The *Shining the Light on You* (StL) FCC Wellbeing Initiative integrates evidence-based practices from the Health and Wellness Coaching field and ECE sector. This 15-week program includes weekly virtual sessions, co-facilitated by a Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coach (HWC) and an Early Childhood Education Coach, and three individual HWC sessions. StL initially piloted with three cohorts of FCC professionals in Delaware.

**Methods:** One-on-one post-program qualitative interviews were conducted with 12 participants from the first two cohorts. Modified thematic analysis was used.

**Results:** Interviewees described how StL positively influenced their health and wellbeing and, as a result, how they engage with children. These results further underscore FCC professionals' need for health promotion, and that focusing on their unique needs can result in improvements to their health and wellbeing and the ways they interact with the children they serve.

PI contact information: [LLessard@udel.edu](mailto:LLessard@udel.edu)

4. **Kalyn McDonough, PhD, MSW**, University of Delaware  
*Community Engaged Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Sport Program in a Juvenile Justice Facility*

**McDonough ACCEL 2022 Poster**

**Lay Statement:** In 2016, the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS), specifically the administration of the Ferris School for Boys, identified a need and motivation to implement a spring sport for young men committed in the level 5 juvenile correctional facility. The administration partnered with a current UD post-doc and community volunteers to enhance capacity for sport-programming. A logic model will outline key aspects of an existing sport program, and this model has helped support program design, implementation, and evaluation.

**Scientific Abstract:** Youth who are incarcerated in the United States have been found to have decreased levels of physical activity (Brusseau et al., 2016) and worse general health over a lifetime (Massaglia, 2008a). In 2016, the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS), specifically the administration of the Ferris School for Boys, identified a need and motivation to implement a spring sport for young men committed in the level 5 juvenile correctional facility. The administration partnered with a current UD post-doc and community volunteers to enhance capacity for sport-programming. In working with the Ferris School for Boys, we outline a logic model that was constructed with facility partners and participating youth reflecting the key aspects of an existing sport program. The logic model has supported program design, implementation, and preliminary evaluation, and can help assist in the development of practice-based evidence on sport programs in other juvenile justice settings.

PI contact information: [kaymcd@udel.edu](mailto:kaymcd@udel.edu)

5. **Iva Obrusnikova, PhD**, University of Delaware  
*Developing the Exercise Self-Efficacy for Adults with Intellectual Disability Scale: Item Generation and Content Validity*

Iva Obrusnikova, PhD, Albert R. Cavalier, PhD, Richard R. Suminski, PhD, Ashley M. Steinbrecher, BS, Cora J. Firkin, BS

Clinical and Translational Pilot Program Award

**Obrusnikova ACCEL 2022 Poster**

**Scientific Abstract:** Health promotion efforts need to identify effective strategies to alter modifiable risk factors for chronic conditions in adults with intellectual disability (AID). This presentation will outline the development of a novel, video-supported scale, *the Exercise Self-Efficacy for Adults with Intellectual Disability* (ESE-AID) that measures Social Cognitive Theory's determinants of exercise in a community fitness facility (CFF).

**Methods:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted in person with 20 AID and via Zoom with 12 certified personal trainers and 18 caregivers. The interviews generated ESE-AID items for seven exercise areas—treadmill, stationary bike, stretching, core strengthening, and performing the leg press, chest press, and military press.

**Results:** We will explain the process of item generation and plans for evaluating face and content validity of the items and auxiliary materials.

**Implications:** Gaining this understanding will help practitioners and researchers design, implement, and accurately evaluate exercise interventions to address the needs of AID in CFF.

PI contact information: [obrusnik@udel.edu](mailto:obrusnik@udel.edu)

6. **Mina Ostovari PhD**, ChristianaCare

*Examining Healthcare Provider Collaboration Using Social Network Analysis*

Mina Ostovari PhD, Kevin Ndura MBA, James Lenhard MD, Claudine Jurkovitz, MD, MPH

Clinical and Translational Pilot Program Award

[\*\*Ostovari ACCEL 2022 Poster\*\*](#)

**Lay Statement:** Diabetes care is complex and requires the collaboration of healthcare providers with various specialties. In this study, we present an approach to model collaboration among healthcare providers involved in diabetes care. The study population includes all patients of ChristianaCare Health System with a diagnosis of diabetes who had a visit to a primary care provider or endocrinologist in 2017. The study data source included electronic health records (EHR) supplemented by medical claims data. We used claims data from the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) to include all healthcare providers of patients regardless of their affiliation with ChristianaCare. We applied social network analysis (SNA) to claims data and generated networks of healthcare providers for each year from 2017 to 2020. Each node represents a healthcare provider. Two nodes are connected via an edge if they shared two or more patients within a year. SNA measures, such as network density, were used to describe the network characteristics. The study findings may lead to changes in care delivery within our health system by encouraging providers to adopt the most effective team structure for improving patient outcomes as identified by our study. In addition, our approach is generalizable and can be applied to the management of similar chronic conditions.

**Scientific Abstract:** Background: Diabetes care is complex and involves health care providers with various specialties. Collaboration of healthcare providers is critical for improving patient outcomes. Methods: The study population included individuals with a diagnosis of diabetes and an index visit to a primary care/endocrinologist in 2017. The data source was electronic health records (EHR) and medical claims data. We used social network analysis (SNA) to generate networks of healthcare providers from 2017 to 2020. Network nodes represent healthcare providers. SNA measures, including density and centrality, were used to describe the network characteristics.

Results: The study population included 10,310 patients who had visits to 18,564 unique healthcare providers. Network size increased from 2017 to 2019; however, in 2020, the network size had a noticeable reduction that could represent the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on collaboration among providers.

**Research relevance for communities:** The study findings will help improve chronic condition care and subsequently patient outcomes.

*PI contact information:* [mina.ostovari@christianacare.org](mailto:mina.ostovari@christianacare.org)

7. **Xuyi Yue, PhD**, Nemours Children's Health

*PET Imaging of Neurofibromatosis Type 1 with a Fluorine-18 Labeled Tryptophan Tracer*

Xuyi Yue, Sigrid A. Langhans, Thomas H. Shaffer, Vinay V.R. Kandula, Heidi H. Kecskemethy, Lauren W. Averill, Rahul M. Nikam

Clinical and Translational Pilot Program Award

[Yue ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** Positron emission tomography (PET) is a type of medical imaging that provides real-time whole-body pictures occurring inside the body at molecular and cellular levels. Neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) is a complex autosomal dominant neurocutaneous disorder. Some benign NF1 develops malignant form with a very low 5-year survival rate. Anatomical imaging methods such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) cannot reliably identify malignant degeneration of NF1. The proposed functional PET imaging will address the limitations, and the exploratory preclinical study will lay the foundation for clinical investigation of fluorine-18 tryptophan in pediatric patients with NF1.

**Scientific Abstract:** Background: Neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) is a complex autosomal dominant neurocutaneous disorder. Eight to 16% of children with a benign form of NF1 develop malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNSTs) with a dismal overall 5-year survival rate of approximately 30%. We intend to use a fluorine-18 labeled tryptophan radiotracer, L-[<sup>18</sup>F]FETrp, to image tryptophan metabolism in a transgenic NF1 animal model.

Methods: NF1 mice were obtained from a commercial source. L-[<sup>18</sup>F]FETrp was radiosynthesized in-house. Biodistribution studies were performed in wild-type and triple-mutant mice at 5, 30, 60, and 90 min. Static positron emission tomography (PET) scans were performed in triple-mutant mice that developed tumors.

Results: L-[<sup>18</sup>F]FETrp synthesis took approximately 100 min. A biodistribution study in triple mutant mice showed a similar tracer uptake pattern as the wild-type group with the highest uptake in the pancreas. A biodistribution study of the tumor mice at 90 min indicated high tumor uptake ( $3.44 \pm 0.53$  ID%/g, n = 3). In addition, static PET scans in NF1 tumor mice showed high tracer uptake in the tumor region and low tracer uptake in the brain.

**Community engagement statement:** The fluorine-18 labeled tryptophan radiotracer has been approved by the FDA for clinical investigation at Nemours for imaging various disorders affecting the brain, including but not limited to epilepsy, neuropsychiatric disorders, and neuro-oncology. The pilot preclinical study may eventually result in clinical applications of the radiotracer to patients with NF1.

PI contact information: [xuyi.yue@nemours.org](mailto:xuyi.yue@nemours.org)

8. **David Teague**, University of Delaware  
*Write Outside Your Window: Public Poetry in Wilmington*  
Saliym Cooper, David Teague, David Stradley, Laura Semmelroth

[Teague ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** During a pandemic spring, Write Outside Your Window provided a formative opportunity for poets, young and old, academic and self-taught, to experience poetry face to face with other human beings for the first time in over a year.

**Scientific Abstract:** This “pop-up” text/image event set out to make connections between canonical literary works and the lives of contemporary Wilmingtonians. Its purpose was to provide city residents a moment of reflection on an otherwise busy, urban day, and to transform an unexpected city location into the crucible for a creative act.

The aim of this project was not to record and display trauma or assuage guilt. The purpose was to merge thoughts and poems to expand and elevate conversation among city residents, especially black and brown residents whose voices, ideas, and concerns are often silenced, erased, and marginalized. We wanted their poems and thoughts to be heard, seen, and contemplated — and not merely in their own zip codes.

PI contact information: [teague@udel.edu](mailto:teague@udel.edu)

9. **Ali A. Poorani PhD**, University of Delaware  
*Veterans Patient Experience Academy: Putting Veterans First*  
*A Partnership Between Wilmington VA Medical Center and University of Delaware*  
Ali A. Poorani PhD, Vince Kane

[Poorani ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** Patient Experience is the #1 priority for many healthcare organizations. As such, the Wilmington VA Medical Center, with 5 satellites in Delaware and New Jersey, under the leadership of Vincent Kane, Director, has made service excellence and staff training a top priority. The goal is to provide excellent experience for Veterans and their families. To achieve this goal Wilmington VA Medical Center partnered with the UD's Patient Experience Academy and developed “Veterans Patient Experience Academy: Putting Veterans first.” As a result of success of the pilot project, the program is scheduled to be delivered to the entire providers, clinicians and staff beginning May 2022.

**Scientific Abstract:** Wilmington VA Medical Center (W VAMC) partnered with the University of Delaware's Department of Hospitality and Sport Business Management at the Lerner College of Business & Economics to develop the VA Patient Experience Academy. The program focused on employee training and provided tools to enhance Veterans' experience.

**Methods:** We utilized two novel approaches: Bridging Hospitality to Healthcare and UD's Healthcare Theatre. We used cross-functional teams to inspire system-thinking; simulations to practice skills; and achievement stories to apply learning to practice, design new processes, and share the results in 60-day follow-ups.

**Results:** Learning improved 128%; application soared 9-fold; staff helpfulness, courtesy and respect improve in most practices; and overall Patient Experience (PX) scores hovered 2.5% above the national average.

The program will continue in 2022 to include the entire providers, clinicians, and staff. The academy will impact quality of patient services and experience to Veterans within Delaware and Southern New Jersey.

PI contact information: [poorani@udel.edu](mailto:poorani@udel.edu)



10. **Dana Holz, PhD**, University of Delaware

*Substance Use and Misuse Prevention Services in Delaware: Perspectives from the Primary Prevention Community*

[Holz ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** This poster highlights the key findings of a qualitative analysis of interviews with 25 individuals who are involved in work related to substance abuse and misuse prevention in Delaware. The four primary themes identified by the researchers include: the value of partnerships, the need for responsive prevention programming, the importance of community knowledge, and implementation factors. Concerns related to COVID-19 and its impact on service delivery were coded as a fifth theme that emerged within the primary themes.

**Scientific Abstract:** The Center for Drug and Health Studies at the University of Delaware, through funding from the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, interviewed 25 individuals involved in substance use and misuse primary prevention work in Delaware in Spring 2021. The purpose of the study was to gain understanding of the prevention landscape and service delivery mechanisms in Delaware, and to identify ways to improve and sustain services. All interviews were conducted over Zoom and transcribed and coded through NVivo. Four primary themes were identified: the value of partnerships, the need for responsive prevention programming, the importance of community knowledge, and implementation factors. Concerns related to COVID-19 and its impact on service delivery were coded as a fifth theme that emerged within the primary themes

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11. **Kelly Cobb**, University of Delaware

*Mapping the Anthropocenic Fibershed: Re/sourcing Waste as Raw Material for Textile Production*  
Kelly Cobb, Anabelle Brame, Savanah Goff, Madleen Knutson, Shae Woodruff

[Kobb ACCEL 2022 Poster](#)

**Lay Statement:** **Mapping the Wasteshed** is community-research partnership aimed at determining post-market manufacturing opportunities, re-defining food and textile waste stream *as a value stream*. For this study, the team of textile designers collaborated with Goodwill of Delaware in a process called waste-led design, that identifies waste as value. The team sourced **agricultural, food and textile waste to be** used for the coloration of textiles in creative design experiments through **waste-led design**. The team developed dyes and coloration processes.

**Scientific Abstract:** **Mapping the Wasteshed** is community-research partnership aimed at determining post-market manufacturing opportunities, re-defining food and textile waste stream *as a value stream*. For this study, the team researched regional **agricultural** crops (corn, melon, soy, dairy, berries) as well as other waste sources from farm and food production including consumer facing food outlets. Researchers sourced **food** waste from area restaurants (vegetable waste, avocado) as well as **textile** waste from unsold clothing through Goodwill of Delaware and Delaware County. The research team sourced regional plants (goldenrod, walnut) in addition to waste in an effort to best identify regional materials and were used as dyestuff for coloration of textiles in design experiments through **waste-led design**. The reality is that in most regions, in this time of the Anthropocene, **waste is the prominent local material**. Our research expands the fibershed, identifying waste as value as a sustainable development strategy with economic, environmental, and social benefits.

PI contact information: [kcobb@udel.edu](mailto:kcobb@udel.edu)

## **ACCEL PROGRAM LEADERSHIP**

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Principal Investigator and Program Director**



**Gregory Hicks, PT, PhD, FAPTA** is professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Associate Vice President for Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Delaware, as well as the Principal Investigator & Program Director for the NIH-funded Delaware CTR ACCEL Program. Dr. Hicks has also previously held administrative roles as deputy dean of the College of Health Sciences and chair of the top-ranked physical therapy department at the University of Delaware. He is also the founding director of the department's Advancing Diversity in Physical Therapy program, known as ADaPT. Dr. Hicks received two BA degrees in Biological Sciences and English, as well as a master's degree in Physical Therapy, from the University of Delaware and a PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Pittsburgh; he also received post-doctoral training in Epidemiology of Aging from the National Institute on Aging. He maintains an active research agenda, which is primarily focused on the development of novel intervention strategies to improve physical function and participation for older persons with chronic musculoskeletal conditions, particularly low back pain. His work has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Health for the past decade. He is currently the principal investigator of an NIH-funded multicenter clinical trial designed to explore the impact of addressing hip impairments in older adults with chronic low back pain. Dr. Hicks has served as the chair of the Scientific Review Committee for the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research and chair of the National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research for the NIH. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* and as an editorial board member for *Pain Medicine*. He has been selected to become a standing member on NIH's Center for Scientific Review as part of the Neurological, Aging and Musculoskeletal Epidemiology (NAME) Study Section. Hicks has been an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and was named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow, APTA's highest membership category, in 2018. Notably, his service to APTA has also included an appointment to APTA's Board of Directors.



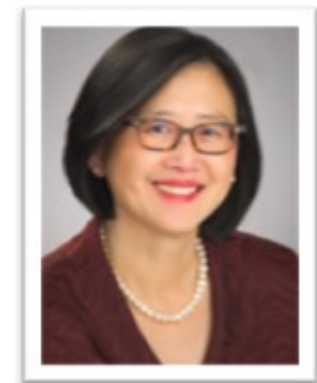
## **Program Coordinator**



**David Edwards, PhD** is a Professor of Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, and Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware, and previously served as Associate Dean of Research for the College of Health Sciences. His research focuses on vascular physiology, both understanding mechanisms of vascular dysfunction and studying interventions that may improve vascular function and involves numerous collaborations. His work is currently primarily focused in two areas, vascular and hemodynamic consequences of dietary sodium consumption and the study of mechanisms and potential interventions for vascular dysfunction and abnormal hemodynamics in patients with chronic kidney disease. His work has been funded by the NIH and the American Heart Association (AHA). He has served

on several NIH and AHA study sections most recently serving on the NHLBI Mentored Transition to Independence Review Committee. He serves as Senior Editor for Experimental Physiology and on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Applied Physiology. Dr. Edwards is a former Delaware INBRE pilot project investigator who successfully transitioned to independence. He has served on the DE-INBRE Research Committee and as the DE-INBRE Cardiovascular Research Theme Leader. He leads the Phase II COBRE in Cardiovascular Health at the University of Delaware that was recently renewed by NIGMS.

## **Nemours Children's Health Co-PI**



**Mary M. Lee, MD, FAAP** is Professor of Pediatrics at Sidney Kimmel School of Medicine, Jefferson University, Executive VP and Chief Scientific Officer, Nemours Children's Health, and Physician-in-Chief at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware. Dr. Lee obtained her AB at Harvard College in East Asian Studies and Languages, and her MD at SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine. She trained in Pediatrics at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo and Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She extended her research fellowship training for a year in the Developmental Reproductive Biology Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital before joining the faculty in Pediatric Endocrinology. Dr. Lee subsequently moved to Duke University Medical Center where she received tenure as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics

before moving to the University of Massachusetts Medical School where she served as the Division Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology and the Vice-chair of Faculty Affairs, and later as the Chair of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief of the UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center. Dr. Lee's early research career focused on elucidating the function of Antimüllerian hormone (AKA Müllerian inhibiting substance) in reproductive biology. She published seminal studies on the use of the AMH/MIS assay in the diagnostic evaluation of children with cryptorchidism and genital ambiguity, and as a tumor marker in women with ovarian tumors. More recently her primary research focus is to understand the consequences of endocrine disruptors and other environmental chemicals on male puberty and reproductive health. Dr. Lee's research program has been funded by the EPA, NICHD, NIDDK, NIEHS, the Charles Hood Medical Foundation, and the March of Dimes. Dr. Lee was a former President of the Pediatric Endocrine Society and the Andrology Society, and has served on several NIH study sections and on the Scientific Advisory Council for NIEHS.

### **Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Co-PI**



**Steven A. Kautz, PhD** received his doctorate in biomedical engineering from the University of California, Davis, CA in 1992. He also received a Masters degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University. He worked for 10 years as a research scientist at the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center in Palo Alto, CA. He then moved to the University of Florida in 2002, where he was first an Associate Professor, then a Full Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy. In Gainesville, Dr. Kautz also had a joint appointment at the VA Brain Rehabilitation Research Center. Currently he is a Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Sciences and Research and a Professor in the Division of Physical Therapy in the College of Health Professions at the Medical University of South Carolina. He also holds an appointment at the Charleston VA Medical Center as a Senior Research Career Scientist. Dr. Kautz is a well-published expert in applying biomechanical and neurophysiological principles to understand the coordination of locomotion in persons with post-stroke hemiparesis. He has had NIH and/or VA funding for stroke rehabilitation research for the past 20 years and has been PI or Co-PI of awards totalling >\$50 million. In addition, he has served as a mentor for more than \$10 million dollars of career development awards to junior faculty. His research combines theoretical and experimental studies of the control of locomotion, functional biomechanics, and clinical neurorehabilitation with the goal of improving walking in persons with neurological disorders. Current ongoing research continues to build on this foundation and is expected to develop fundamental concepts related to walking performance, its measurement and its rehabilitation in the hemiparetic population.

### **Delaware State University (DESU) Co-PI**



**Sangeeta Gupta, MD, MPH** is a Professor of Public Health at Delaware State University. Prior to joining academia, Dr. Gupta has served as a senior chronic disease epidemiologist in health departments. Dr. Gupta has been the Principal Investigator and co-investigator for projects funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to cancer, tick-borne diseases, HIV and Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program. She is interested in applying epidemiologic methods to address the influences of socioeconomic and place-based factors on chronic diseases. Her interest is in applying epidemiologic methods to address health disparities and inequities through analyzing and addressing social determinants of health. Dr. Gupta has experience in coordinating and conducting surveillance studies, program evaluations in low and middle income countries. Recent research includes work on the role of health literacy in managing the dual burden of infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Ghana and Uganda. Dr. Gupta serves on several national committees and organizations including Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), American Public Health Association (APHA) and National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD).

### **ChristianaCare (CC) Co-PI**

**Mia Papas, PhD, MS**

Chief Scientific Officer, ChristianaCare Institute for Research on Equity and Community Health

## **Cores Leadership**

**Administrative Core: Gregory Hicks, PhD**

### **Management Information Systems (MIS) and Marketing**



**Erin Crowgey, PhD** is Director of Medical Bioinformatics at Nemours Children's Health, Delaware Valley whose primary expertise is in molecular biology and bioinformatics. She works on multiple projects with the goal of implementing a learning healthcare system which will enhance precision medicine efforts. From the outset, her doctoral dissertation focused on building clinical and translational tools for rare childhood diseases. She has expertise in developing custom computational pipelines to analyze genomic data, including metagenomics and pan-omics integration. With her clinical collaborators across the country, she is working on establishing comprehensive computational pipelines that will enable the use of 'omics' data in clinical research projects, with the ultimate goal of applying these methods in real-time at the bedside. She works closely with several members of the Children's Oncology Group on analyzing a large pediatric leukemia NGS dataset. Her team focuses on developing new approaches for detecting complex genomic rearrangements associated with pediatric cancers. She has an affiliated faculty position at the University of Delaware.

### **Pilot Projects Program**



**Susanne M Morton, PT, PhD** is an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at the University of Delaware. Dr. Morton's lab is focused on understanding motor learning in health and disease and motor recovery from stroke. As a clinician-neuroscientist, the ultimate goal of her work is to improve rehabilitation interventions and outcomes for people with neurologic conditions. Dr. Morton has received grant support for her work from the NIH and served on several grant review panels for the NIH and other federal agencies. In 2020, began serving as Director of Pilot Projects Program for the Delaware CTR-ACCEL Program.

### Professional Development Core (PDC)



**Robert E. Akins, Jr., PhD, FAACPDM, FAHA** is a Principal Scientist, Director of the Center for Pediatric Clinical Research and Development, and Head of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Research at the Nemours Children's Health. Research in the Akins group focuses on the application of regenerative therapies and precision therapeutics to improve outcomes and decrease long-term healthcare costs for children with acquired and congenital conditions that require surgical correction. He works extensively to integrate basic and translational research into the clinical environment at Nemours Children's, and he has established cross-campus, multi-disciplinary programs to support clinical and translational research teams. Since 2013, he has served as Director of the Professional Development Core for the Delaware CTR ACCEL Program.

### Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Core



**Claudine Jurkovitz, MD, MPH** has been Director of Clinical Research in the Institute for Research on Equity and Community Health (iREACH) at ChristianaCare since September 2019 and lead of the Biostatistics Epidemiology Research Design (BERD) core of the Delaware ACCEL-Center for Translational Research (CTR) since October 2017. As such she helps Physicians, Residents and young Investigators at ChristianaCare and other ACCEL-CTR Institutions to develop their research projects and analytical plan and works closely with iREACH data acquisition and biostatistical teams. She was appointed Director of the Centralized Research Support Network (CRSN), a newly developed INBRE core in 2017. CRSN's goal is to develop mechanisms to leverage existing infrastructure such as the Delaware ACCEL-CTR with expertise in epidemiology, study design, biostatistics and patient engagement and to make these services available to the INBRE network's biomedical investigators. She is also a member of the steering committee of the INBRE Bioinformatics Network of Delaware (BiND). As a Nephrologist Epidemiologist, Dr. Jurkovitz has actively developed her own research interests, mostly in the field of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and health services research.

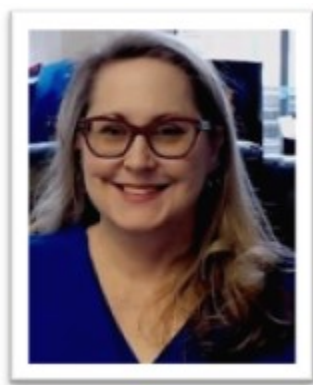
## Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core



**Lee M. Pachter, DO** is a senior physician scientist and Director of Mentorship & Professional Development at the Institute for Research in Equity and Community Health (iREACH) at ChristianCare. He is a Professor of Pediatrics and Population Health at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the College of Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University. Lee also is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics.

Lee is a pediatrician researcher who conducts research in the areas of social determinants of health, psychosocial stress and adversity, racism and discrimination, and health disparities. He received a K-Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to develop an instrument to measure experiences of racism and discrimination in children and youth. He was a founding co-director of the Philadelphia ACE Task Force and, founded and directed the Academic Pediatric Association's New Century Scholars Program, which is a career development and mentorship program aimed at diversifying the academic pediatric workforce. Lee was the recipient of the 2020 APA Miller-Sarkin Mentorship Award. He also is a co-investigator in the NIH-funded Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware site for the IDEa States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network.

## Tracking and Evaluation Core



**Sue Giancola, PhD** is Senior Associate Director at the Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP) at the University of Delaware. She has a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in policy research, evaluation, and measurement. She also has degrees from the University of Virginia and Pennsylvania State University in engineering and management, respectively. She has 25 years of experience as an evaluator in both academia and private business, evaluating programs in education, human services, engineering, and health. Her work focuses on leveraging quality improvement and engineering design principles to improve program and policy evaluation. Dr. Giancola has evaluated projects funded through the NIH, NSF, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Education, as well as local, state, and foundation-funded programs. She is currently the lead evaluator of the DE-CTR ACCEL and Delaware Musculoskeletal COBRE. She also leads the National CTR Evaluators Network and is Program Chair of the American Evaluation Association's Translational Research Evaluation group.



## **External Advisory Committee (EAC)**



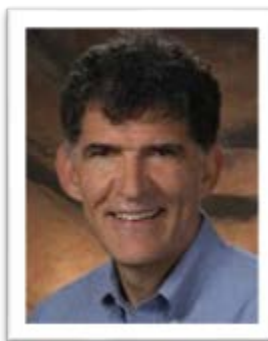
**Scott A. Waldman, MD, PhD (Chair)** obtained his PhD degree in Anatomy from Thomas Jefferson University, and his MD degree from Stanford University. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia and Stanford University in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology in the laboratory of Ferid Murad, MD, PhD, who won the 1998 Noble Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He is the Director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Program of the Kimmel Cancer Center, and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics of Thomas Jefferson University. He is a past member of the American Board of Clinical Pharmacology, a past Regent of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology, and a past-President of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He is Editor-in-Chief for *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, *Biomarkers in Medicine*. Dr. Waldman's research interests focus on tissue-specific pathways underlying intestinal tumorigenesis and their utility as targets for managing patients with colorectal cancer.



**Saundra Glover, PhD** is currently a Distinguished Professor Emerita and adjunct professor in the department of Health Services Policy and Management in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Saundra H. Glover has been at the forefront of Public Health Practice and Health Equity Initiatives locally, nationally, and internationally. She served for several years as the first Associate Dean for Health Disparities and Social Justice in the Arnold School of Public and directed the School's Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities research portfolio that grew to \$35 million under her leadership. Her 10-year cycle of funding from the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health totalling \$14.2 million allowed Dr. Glover, as the Principal Investigator of a Center of Excellence in Community Engagement, Partnerships and Research and Training with an Environmental Health Core, to focus on reducing health disparities in cancer and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Glover also led a multi-year \$6.5 million award from the Department of Defense in partnership with Ft. Jackson Military Installation to examine health disparities in the military population in the areas of obesity, musculoskeletal injuries, and mental health. Dr. Glover was also Associate Director of the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center. A summa cum laude graduate of the School of Business at South Carolina State University, Dr. Glover received her MBA and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Management and Organizational Behavior from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.



**James Padbury, MD** is Adjunct Research Professor at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Padbury received his BS in biology from the UC Irvine and his MD degree from UCLA. His postgraduate training in pediatrics and neonatology was taken at UCSF and Boston Children's Hospital. He was recruited to Brown University from UCLA in 1995. He has long-standing research interests in cardiovascular and placental developmental biology and perinatal genetics. Among the awards since coming to Brown University are three Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Awards (COBRE), grants from the March of Dimes to study the genetics of prematurity and NIH support to study the genetics of preeclampsia. He serves as a reviewer for NIH, NSF, the American Heart Association and the March of Dimes. He is past Chair of the NIH Pregnancy and Neonatology Study Section. He is past Program Director of the IDEa Clinical and Translational Research Award, Advance-CTR. This is a state-wide, \$19.5M translational research award from NIGMS, based at Brown University, involving the University of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Quality Institute and all three of the affiliated hospital systems.



**Daniel J. Rader, MD** is the Seymour Gray Professor of Molecular Medicine and Chair of the Department of Genetics at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rader's research focuses on the human genetics and functional genomics of lipoprotein metabolism and atherosclerosis, as well as the translational implications for novel therapeutic approaches. He 'rescued' an abandoned molecule that reduces cholesterol and led the successful development of this compound as a novel therapeutic for patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. He is known for his work in HDL metabolism and HDL function, as well as for his pioneering studies of novel biological pathways in lipid metabolism revealed through genome-wide human genetics studies. He also serves as Chief of the Divisions of Human Genetics in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics and Associate Director of the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics at Penn and directs the Penn Medicine BioBank, an integrated resource to support human genetics and translational research. He is a recipient of several national and international awards, serves as the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Familial Hypercholesterolemia Foundation, chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Leducq Foundation, and has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine and the American Association of Arts and Sciences.



**Prof. Dr. N. Stergiou (Nick)** is the Assistant Dean and Director of the Division of Biomechanics and Research Development at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). He is a Distinguished Community Research Chair and Professor at UNO. Dr. Stergiou also serves as the Director of the Center for Research in Human Movement Variability and he is the Founding Chair of the first ever academic Department of Biomechanics that graduates students with a BS, MS, and PhD in Biomechanics. He has procured a private donation of \$6 million to build the 23,000 square foot Biomechanics Research Building that has opened in August of 2013. This is the first building dedicated to biomechanics research in the world. It is also the first building on his campus exclusively dedicated to research. He was also able to procure 11.6 million in private donations to build a 30,000 square foot expansion to this building which opened in October of 2019.



**Steven L Wolf, PhD** received his AB in Biology from Clark University, his physical therapy certificate from Columbia University, MS in physical therapy from Boston University and his PhD in neurophysiology from Emory University. He has been a physical therapist for 50 years. His primary interests have been in researching ways to improve movement capabilities in aging and neurological populations. Until recently he also spent considerable time in evaluating and treating patients diagnosed with stroke. He is past vice president of the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia and recipient of its Merit Award. While he has received numerous awards, those most relevant to the APTA include: the Emory University School of Medicine Distinguished Faculty Award, The Golden Pen Award, Lucy Blair Service Award, and The Helen J. Hislop Award for Outstanding Contributions to Literature. He has been a Catherine Worthingham Fellow since 1987 and was our 2002 Mary McMillan Lecturer. Dr. Wolf's contributions to our profession include establishing the inclusion criteria for forced use of the upper extremity following stroke and contributing to the formulation of what later became known as constraint induced movement therapy, establishing Tai Chi as a falls' prevention exercise for older adults, and helping to establish what is today known as the FiRST (Frontiers in Rehabilitation Science and Technology) Council of the APTA. Considered by some to be a bit of a visionary, he has received honors from multiple professional organizations, has authored or co-authored over 270 refereed articles; edited 9 books; procured over \$60M in grant funding; and has provided over 800 national and international lectures. Currently, he serves as co-Chair for the Rehabilitation and Recovery Working Group of the NINDS-funded Stroke Network.



## **Internal Advisory Committee (IAC)**

**Vicky Funanage, PhD, Chair of IAC**



**Bethany Hall-Long** has served as Delaware's 26th Lt. Governor since January 2017. Formally, Bethany served as a Delaware State Senator from 2008-2017 and a State Representative from 2002-2008 where she focused on issues involving behavioral health, cancer, education, and the environment.

After graduating from the Medical University of South Carolina with her MSN in Community Health Nursing, Bethany went on to receive her Ph.D in Health Policy and Nursing Administration from George Mason University. Bethany's career in nursing took her from state to state with her husband, a Navy Veteran, where she worked with underserved populations in need.

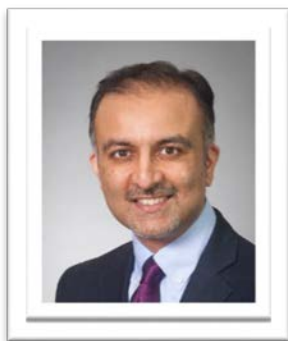
After returning to her home state of Delaware, Bethany became a nursing professor at the University of Delaware, where she has served for over 20 years. Her research and community service record with at-risk groups such as pregnant teens, diabetics, homeless and the mentally ill, make her a nationally recognized health scientist.

Bethany currently resides in Middletown Delaware with her husband Dana, and son, Brock



**Melissa Harrington, PhD** is the Associate Vice President for Research at Delaware State University, Director for the Delaware Institute of Science and Technology, and the Director of the NIH-funded Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research, a virtual center linking neuroscientists at Delaware State University and the University of Delaware. Dr. Harrington's main role as Center Director is to mentor and guide early-stage faculty at both institutions in establishing an independent research program that is competitive for external funding. Beyond her work in the Center, she has also served as the departmental mentor for more than a dozen junior faculty members in departments as diverse as biology, kinesiology, physics and social work.

Dr. Harrington's research program in neurophysiology has been continuously funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense since 1998. Her current research program focuses on understanding the development of motor neurons - the nerve cells that drive muscle contraction, as well as investigating the mechanism of motor neuron dysfunction in the disease spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Dr. Harrington has trained more than 50 undergraduates, 8 graduate students and five post-doctoral scientists in her research laboratory, and most of her many research publications include student co-authors.



**Omar Khan, MD, MHS, FAAFP** is President & CEO of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, and Physician Leader for Research Administration & Scientific Affairs at ChristianaCare. Affiliated Professor of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware. He is also Associate Professor of Family & Community Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University and at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Khan has served as Conference Chair or Co-Chair for all six ACCEL Community Research Exchange conferences, and is a member of the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) for ACCEL. He also serves on the advisory committee for DE- INBRE and for the Puerto Rico CTR program.

A Delaware native, Dr. Khan is a graduate of Wilmington Friends School; received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania; MD from the University of Vermont; and MHS from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He has served on the faculty of the University of Vermont, University of Pennsylvania, and Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Khan has served in roles of increasing responsibility at ChristianaCare. Prior to leading DHSA, his role was Physician Leader of Primary Care & Community Medicine, overseeing the clinical activities of several departments. Prior to that, he was Medical Director of the Eugene du Pont Preventive Medicine Institute, and Associate Vice Chair of the Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Khan also maintains an academic family medicine practice, with interests in health administration, applied research, global health and with Delaware's DIMER Board for medical education. He has served on several boards, including the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association (APHA), Chair of International Health for APHA, and the Education Committee of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH). He was the 2018-21 President of the Delaware Academy of Medicine and is currently chair of the Advisory Council for the Delaware Public Health Association, and is Past-President of the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians.

In addition to over 100 scientific publications, he has co-authored 6 books in the area of community and global health, most recently as Editor in Chief of the Control of Communicable Diseases Manual Clinical edition, in which he also co-authored the chapter on coronaviruses. He is Editor in Chief of the Delaware Journal of Public Health and serves on the review panels for JAMA, AJPH, BMJ, ePocrates, Lancet, and Annals of Family Medicine. He has been interviewed for NPR regarding global medicine, and is a Top Doctor awardee by Philadelphia magazine for several years.



**Brian J. Levine, MD** is the Associate Chief Academic Official and Designated Institutional Officer of ChristianaCare.

In his role, Dr. Levine has oversight of graduate and undergraduate medical education as well as the Virtual Education & Simulation Training Center, medical libraries and the allied health programs.

He has an extensive background in graduate medical education, having served as program director of the emergency medicine residency program since 2012, and as the associate program director from 2006-2012. He is a clinical associate professor of emergency medicine at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia.

Dr. Levine received his medical degree from the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine and is a graduate of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program at ChristianaCare. He also serves as the Associate Medical Director for the LifeNet aeromedical transport program.



**Tammy Loucks, MPH, DrPH** is an Associate Professor with a primary appointment to the Academic Affairs Faculty and secondary appointment in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is the Science Development Officer for the South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research (SCTR) Institute with responsibilities for scientific and grant development activities, communications, and outreach. Prior to joining MUSC in 2018, Loucks was Assistant Professor and Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs for the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Emory University. She has more than 25 years of experience in clinical and translational research conduct, academic program development and administration, and faculty advancement in academic health sciences centers.



**Charles Riordan, PhD** serves as Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Innovation with responsibility for advancing the University's research enterprise, including oversight of the University's Research Office, five University-wide research institutes, core facilities and the Office of Economic Innovation and Partnerships. The University of Delaware (UD) is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a very high research activity, a distinction achieved by less than 3 percent of U.S. colleges and universities. UD ranks among the top 100 universities in terms of federal R&D support for science and engineering. Riordan is an inorganic chemist whose research has been supported primarily by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. He is the recipient of a 1994 National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award (NYI). A member of the UD faculty since 1997, he served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry from 2002-07 and was Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education from 2010-13. He received the University's outstanding doctoral graduate advising and mentoring award in 2008. An elected fellow of both the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he received the 2013 American Chemical Society Delaware Section Award for his scholarly research. Riordan was elected into Texas A&M University's College of Science Academy of Distinguished Former Students. Riordan has served on the editorial advisory boards of several leading chemistry journals. He has served on numerous review panels and committees, including a three-year stint as Chair, of the NIH MSF-A study section. Riordan earned his bachelor's degree at the College of Holy Cross, his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University and was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Chicago.



**Marlene A. Saunders, DSW, MSW, LMSW**, is the ACCEL Program Community Advisory Council Chairperson. She is a social worker, social work educator, administrator and an elected official. Her professional activities and endeavors as a citizen have focused on maximizing relationships to enable people from diverse backgrounds to work together to achieve social justice, equity and equality for everyone. She has pursued these objectives as a former executive director of the National Association of Social Workers, Delaware Chapter and as the former chairperson for the Department of Social Work at Delaware State University. Currently, Dr. Saunders is a member of the steering committees for Women's March, Sussex Delaware, and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Social Justice. In addition, she is a member of Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice and the Community Air Monitoring Network.



**Thomas Shaffer, MSE, PhD** has academic experience as a scientist in engineering, physiology and pediatrics as well as extensive industrial and pharmaceutical consulting experience in instrumentation and drug development. The quality of his corporate-sponsored research has resulted in 14 licensed patents and 12 additional patents ready for commercialization. As the Director of the Center for Pediatric Research, for the last decade he has served as the PD/PI of the Center (<http://centerforpediatricresearch.org/>), which is supported by the NIH NIGMS COBRE program and has been responsible for administering its staff, revenues (\$26.6 Million) and research. In addition, Dr. Shaffer is also the Director of the Center for Pediatric Lung Research, and Associate Director for Biomedical Research, Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware. Furthermore, he holds faculty positions as Professor of Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University and Professor of Physiology and Pediatrics at Temple University School of Medicine. Since 1974, Dr. Shaffer has been continuously supported by NIH grants (34), and academic, corporate and private institutional awards (55 non-NIH). Dr. Shaffer's contribution to the literature has been significant. He has published 78 books, chapters, reviews; 306 peer-reviewed manuscripts; and 605 abstracts. In his faculty roles at Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine, he has mentored 45 graduate students and 64 post-doctoral Fellows over a 40-year period. Many of these former students now hold faculty positions in prestigious medical schools. His research has focused on cardiopulmonary development, which involves developing unique animal models and novel ventilatory techniques. His research is physiology and engineering based with an emphasis on characterizing airway and lung disorders in the neonatal/pediatric population.

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Chairperson**

**Marlene A. Saunders, DSW, MSW, LMSW,**

### **Members**

**Gwendoline B. “Gwen” Angalet, PhD**



**Cassandra Codes-Johnson, MPA**, Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt, has over twenty years of experience in public health. Cassandra is considered a subject matter expert on topics related to health equity and addressing social determinants of health in Delaware. She is one of the co-authors of the Delaware Health Equity Guide for Public Health Practitioners and Partners. Cassandra has worked in the private, nonprofit and government sectors with one clear goal in mind: Identify opportunities to improve the lives of people through the improvement of systems and processes. Cassandra has two decades of experience working at the community level

engaged in initiatives to improve the health status and economic status of vulnerable populations. Cassandra is currently the Associate Deputy Director for the Delaware Division of Public Health and provides support and oversight to over 800 dedicated public health staff who work daily to promote and protect the health of Delawareans. She has worked with national and international organizations such as Family Health International, the Administration for Children and Families, Mathematica Policy Research, Nemours Children’s Health, Center for Urban Families, ICF International, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Annie E. Casey Foundation, White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Brookings Institute, Columbia University and others to affect positive change for diverse populations through the implementation of policies, programs and research.



**Octavia Dryden**, known by many as “Penny”, holds a Business Administration and Economics degree from Delaware State University. She has more than thirty years of experience in the social and environmental justice field and an extensive background in community engagement, partnership, and coalition building. She was a member of the development team to establish the nationally recognized New Castle County Community Partnership in 1991. She later served as its Executive Director and led the development of 10 Neighborhood coalitions, two county-level coalitions, Wilmington Prevention Coalition and New Castle Prevention Coalition. Octavia is currently the executive director of Community Housing & Empowerment Connections Inc. and chairperson

for the Delaware EJ Community Partnership, and Delaware Concerned Residents for EJ@CHEC. In these capacities she oversees the development of the Community Air Monitoring Network 4 Delaware and the Connecting BIPOC to Clean Energy Opportunities Initiative. In 2017, Penny co-authored the Environmental Justice for Delaware, Mitigating Toxic Pollution in New Castle County Communities report, served as Co-Principal Investigator for a ACCEL Sponsored Retreat entitled: The Health Impacts of Toxic Pollution Research Retreat: Moving Collaboratively from Data to Action through Community Engaged Research.





**Frank Hawkins** has been with AIDS Delaware for 22 years where he serves as Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement. Frank has implemented many programs to reach various populations in the city of Wilmington. He has been featured in many publications for the work he is doing to halt the spread of HIV. One program is the “Do The Right Thing 4Life”, which targets barbershops and beauty salons in the city of Wilmington, to reach the African-American community. Part time, Frank works for the YMCA Resource Center as the Program Specialist for the Alcohol Drug Prevention program and “Back on Track” program.



**Tyrone Jones** has been working for more than 15 years for Delawareans through the office of Senator Tom Carper, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban league, Astra Zeneca’s Community Alliances, Delaware Government and External Affairs. This work has been about establishing relationships and bringing agencies together to advocate for better living circumstances and the improvement of patient/community relationships. Currently, Mr. Jones brings his expertise to the offices of the United Way.



**Cecelia Rich, MPA** earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Behaviors and Urban Studies at the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2003. Subsequently, she completed all required course work for the Master of Public Administration degree from Walden University in 2017. Ms. Rich established the Village Tree, Inc. in 2012. This 501(c3) non-profit organization utilizes an empowerment, strengths-based philosophy. The organization’s specific objectives include: connecting communities to resources that enable them through partnerships to solve problems utilizing community assets; supporting community viability through urban gardening and providing leadership and support for community meetings that help

residents coalesce and mobilize for positive change in such areas as health and community action.

Her professional employment includes, but is not limited to, U. S. Census Bureau Field representative, human service provider and substance abuse counselor. She worked as a Qualified Mental Health Provider where she rendered mental health services to residents in the Central Richmond, VA area. As a human service provider, she also provided services to enable successful re-entry by women incarcerated at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women, in Goochland, VA.

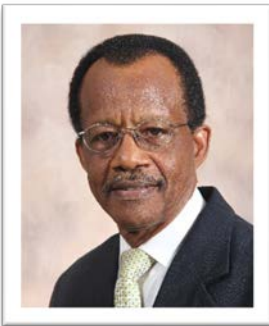




**Terry-Ann Richards** is an Administrative Assistant at UD with CRESP. Her work focuses on research, evaluation, and outreach activities. These include correspondence, scheduling, data organization, performing administrative duties while ensuring confidentiality. Terry-Ann studied at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn New York, while becoming a member of the inaugural class of Public Allies where she had training on bringing communities together to work for a common good. She is a mother to two boys aged 13 and 21. Terry-Ann's passion and majority of her work experience has been in the nonprofit sector tying into her community interests and finding different ways to help low-income communities. She enjoys volunteering with her sons to show them the importance of being a part of a community changing process.



**Shay Scott, M.A.**, is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Southbridge Medical Advisory Council, Inc. affectionately known as Henrietta Johnson Medical Center through the community. Shay has dedicated her professional life to the management of non-profit and community-based organizations. Throughout her career she worked with medically underserved individuals recognizing that they are among the most vulnerable within a community, as well as the most resilient. Shay earned an M.A. in Leadership and Management from Liberty University and an undergraduate degree in Public Health Administration from Stockton University.



**Harold Stafford** is CEO of the Stafford Firm, consultations for government, public and private sectors, including not-for-profits. He has been active in Delaware government, acting as the former Secretary of Labor, Director of Administration, and Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office. He also worked in varying capacities for Delaware Department of Correction, as Human Services Planner for Delaware Office of Management, Budget, and Planning, and outside Delaware as the Community Developer for West Philadelphia Mental Health Consortium. Mr. Stafford has worked as a mentor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and served on the Board of Directors for Dover Inter-City Cultural League, First State Community Action Agency, Delaware Curative Workshop, DE Parents Association, Delaware State University Research Foundation, and Jobs for Delaware Graduates.



**Meghan Walls, PsyD**, is a pediatric psychologist in the Division of Behavioral Health at Nemours Children's Health and holds an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Walls provides services at Nemours Children's primary care practices in Wilmington, with focus on social determinants of health, understanding toxic stress, and positive parenting. She was selected for the 2019 Nemours Physician Excellence in Community Service Award as well as the 2019 NAMI Delaware Healthcare Professional of the Year.

Dr. Walls also serves as Legislative and Policy Advisor within External Affairs at Nemours, where she advocates for policies that benefit children by making healthcare more accessible, especially for vulnerable populations. She also co-chairs the Data and Policy Committee for the Lt. Governor's Behavioral Health Consortium and is an appointed member of the Delaware Early Childhood Council and the Governor's Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council.



**LaVaida Owens White MSN, RN, FCN** has more than 40 years nursing experience in acute and long-term care, rehabilitation, home care and community health. She is currently working in the practice setting of Faith Community Nursing, and as Coordinator for the Delaware Region Health Ministries Network. Ms. Owens White is a faculty educator for the International Parish Nurse Resource Center and instructor for the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing core curriculum. As a community activist and life member of the NAACP, she is active in leadership positions in community-based associations. One of her current interests is in nursing research, exploring a collaborative partnership of community and faith-based organizations in addressing childhood obesity.

## **Community Engagement and Outreach Leadership and Team Members**

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## DE CTR ACCEL Funding Opportunities 2022

Visit our website at [www.de-ctr.org](http://www.de-ctr.org) for more detailed information

### ACCEL Strategic Initiative Partnership Program (ASIPP)

ACCEL offers the community a unique opportunity to partner with us. The ACCEL Strategic Initiative Partnership Program's goal is to add a research component to an ongoing or proposed program. If you think that you would like to partner with ACCEL, please contact Karen Hough at [khough@udel.edu](mailto:khough@udel.edu), our BERD Core Lead Claudine Jurkovitz at [cjurkovitz@christianacare.org](mailto:cjurkovitz@christianacare.org), our CEO Core Lead Lee Pachter at [lee.pachter@christianacare.org](mailto:lee.pachter@christianacare.org) or our Tracking and Evaluation Core Lead, Sue Giancola at [giancola@udel.edu](mailto:giancola@udel.edu). You can find more information detailing our Strategic Partnership Program below.

#### **ACCEL Strategic Initiative to Partner with State, Public, and Private Organizations on Ongoing or Planned Programs Targeted to Improve the Health of Delawareans (ASIPP)**

- **What ACCEL is proposing to do:** *Strengthen the Research and/or Evaluation Component of Ongoing or Planned Programs Targeting Improvements in the Health of Delawareans.*
- **Targeted Partners:** *State of Delaware, ChristianaCare, Nemours Children's Health, Private and Public Organizations/Foundations.*
- **ACCEL Investment:** *ACCEL has considerable resources in three areas that will allow for a stronger research and/or evaluation component to become part of ongoing efforts targeting improvements in the health of Delawareans. First, there is considerable expertise in the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology and research design (BERD) that will be allocated toward any identified project. Second, there is a large group of faculty with an interest and expertise in Community Engagement and Outreach that we can connect to ongoing efforts. Finally, we have a robust Pilot Projects Program that can provide seed money for enhancing ongoing programs and projects that will allow for the assessment of program impact on the health of Delawareans.*
- **Areas of Interest:** *ACCEL is flexible regarding the areas of cooperation, as long as they impact the health of Delawareans and fall within the broad priorities of the ACCEL Program.*
  - **ACCEL Priorities:**  
*Rehabilitation, Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases, Stroke, Big Data, Obesity, Women's Health and Infant Mortality, Community Engaged Research*
  - **Community Needs Assessment Results Top Priorities:**  
*Mental and Behavioral Health; Social Determinants of Health; Substance Use/Misuse and Opioid Epidemic; Health Disparity/Equity*

ACCEL is eager to create MOUs with appropriate State components to move impactful, evidence-based projects forward.



## ***DE CTR ACCEL Funding Opportunities***

### **Research Retreats Program (Retreat/Workshop)**

To promote high-impact areas of research and interdisciplinary collaboration, the ACCEL Clinical & Translational Pilot Projects Program will provide limited financial support (up to \$10,000) to researchers and clinicians for a one-day focused Research Retreat/Workshop with the specific intention of stimulating new collaborations.

New collaborations and ideas from Retreats/Workshops should lead to the formulation of new grant proposals. To help in the writing and organization of those new grant submissions, ACCEL offers the following mechanisms.

### **Jumpstart Grants (Jumpstart)**

The goal of the ACCEL Program is to bring investigators together to form new collaborations that result in new research grant proposals. In order to facilitate this process, we are offering Jumpstart Grants to teams of investigators who have completed an ACCEL-sponsored Retreat/Workshop, to help them develop new clinical and translational research proposals. ACCEL will provide limited financial support (up to \$20,000) for 6 months.

### **Clinical & Translational Pilot Grants**

The mission of the DE-CTR ACCEL Program is to accelerate clinical and translational research that addresses health outcomes of Delawareans. Our Pilot Projects Program solicits applications for projects related to clinical and translational research. Pilot Grants provide funds for a 1 (Regular Pilots) or 2 (Community Engagement Pilots) year period that will allow a research team to develop a more substantial basis for independent external support from the NIH. Funding support is for up to \$80,000 in direct costs for 12 months or \$40,000 per year for 2 years. While these projects have already been determined for our award year beginning July 2022, please keep your eyes peeled for RFAs that are released each December for the following year.

### **OrBiTs Grants**

To overcome barriers that investigators face in successful translation of their work across the research continuum, we will fund proposals from researcher/investigator teams for Overcoming Barriers to Translational Success (OrBiTS) awards. These two-year grants will enable a team of at least three investigators to hire technical staff, procure specialized equipment, purchase data sets, or hire a specialized consultant so that they could generate strong clinical and translational research programs. The OrBiTS awards are not for specific research projects, but for infrastructure that will aid clinical and translational research. We anticipate that this type of support will provide considerable help in bringing basic scientists into the clinical and translational arena or facilitate translational researchers doing clinical trials, ultimately leading to procurement of large center-type grants. Funding for this mechanism will range from \$20,000 to \$150,000 per project and must provide resources for multiple investigators.

## ***DE CTR ACCEL Funding Opportunities***

### **Shovel-Ready Grants (SHoRes)**

Many investigators submit proposals and receive good scores but yet are not funded due to today's competitive climate. To aid such investigators to transition their good proposals into fundable ones, the ACCEL Program has created this Shovel-Ready Grant Program (SHoRe Grants). These awards are for investigators who already have submitted research grant applications (NIH, PCORI, VA, NSF, etc.) and have received summary statements, but need funds to collect additional data to strengthen their resubmission and address reviewer concerns.

The SHoRe RFP solicits applications for projects that will be completed within six months and must result in a resubmitted research grant application. Support is offered in amounts up to \$20,000.

Feel free to email questions about the above pilot grants to your institutional Site PI, Financial Administrator or Dr. Susanne Morton, Pilot Projects Program Core Lead at [smmorton@udel.edu](mailto:smmorton@udel.edu).

### **Mentored Research Development Awards (MRDAs)**

The principal goal of the MRDA program is to improve the success rate for grant submissions by junior faculty. To accomplish this objective, MRDA recipients (MRDA Scholars) will work with their chosen mentor(s) to achieve milestones associated with the preparation of a targeted grant application. To assure highly-competitive grant submissions, MRDA Scholars will also take advantage of extensive ACCEL resources. These include grant writing workshops, peer mentoring groups, grant review sessions, support from the Professional Development Core (PD Core), and biostatistics and study design consultations with experts from the ACCEL Biostatistic Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Core.

MRDAs release awardees from significant non-research responsibilities (e.g., clinical work, teaching, administration) so that they can participate in defined activities associated with grant writing and submission. At the end of the MRDA period, awardees are required to submit a fully-developed grant proposal to one of the following mechanisms:

- i. IDeA Program Pilot Grants (e.g., CTR, COBRE, INBRE, CTSA, ISPCTN);
- ii. ii. NIH; PCORI; AHRQ; other federal agency;
- iii. iii. A well-recognized grant-issuing foundation or organization (AHA, ACS, etc.).

For more information, please contact Erin Riegel at [Erin.Riegel@nemours.org](mailto:Erin.Riegel@nemours.org)

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