

# Black Women and Public Health

Strategies to Name, Locate, and Change Systems of Power

RESEARCH COLLECTIVE

[blackwomenandpublichealth.net](http://blackwomenandpublichealth.net)

## *Editors*



**[Sarita K. Davis](#), PhD**, is Associate Professor in the Department of African American Studies and affiliate faculty in the Institute of Public Health at Georgia State University. Since 2009, she has served as Director of the Graduate Program for DAAS. She is knowledgeable about culturally relevant research in HIV prevention education targeting African American women. She has conducted research involving African American women at risk of HIV living in high burden communities, with emphasis on the intersectional effects of race, class, and gender on health. Her research interests are sexual decision making, HIV/AIDS prevention education, culturally-relevant praxis.

**[Stephanie Y. Evans](#), PhD** is Professor and Director of the Institute for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Georgia State University. She is former Chair of the AWH Department at Clark Atlanta University and African American Studies at University of Florida. She researches Black women's intellectual history and examines Africana memoirs to study legacies of Black women's health and wellness. Her research on historical wellness offers context to contemporary self-care movements and lays a foundation for institutionalizing wellness—particularly in higher education, where stress is too often normalized. She is author of three books, *Black Women's Historical Wellness: Mental Health and Healing in Elder Memoirs* (forthcoming from SUNY Press), *Black Passports: Travel Memoirs as Tools for Youth Empowerment* (SUNY Press 2014), and *Black Women in the Ivory Tower, 1850-1954: An Intellectual History* (University of Florida Press 2007). She is also lead co-editor of *Black Women and Social Justice Education: Legacies and Lessons* (SUNY Press 2019), *Black Women's Mental Health: Balancing Strength and Vulnerability* (SUNY Press, 2017) as well as *African Americans and Community Engagement* (SUNY 2010). Her portfolio is available online at [professorevans.net](http://professorevans.net).

**[Leslie R. Hinkson](#), PhD** is a sociologist whose research and consulting work focus on processes of organizational change, stratification and inequality within and across organizations, and the role and meaning of race across institutional contexts and its effect on educational, employment, and health outcomes. Dr. Hinkson is currently National VP, Racial Justice and Equity, for the League of Conservation Voters. Before joining LCV, Dr. Hinkson was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University, with a courtesy appointment in African American Studies

(of which she was a founding member). A graduate of the Sociology doctoral program at Princeton University, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Research Fellows at the University of Michigan. Her health and medical related work focuses on race-based decision making by physicians and the role that race-based medicine plays in our broader system of healthcare delivery. Her edited volume, *Subprime Health: Debt and Race in U.S. Medicine* explores the relationship between race-based medical interventions and debt as a means of revealing the unintended negative health and social consequences of race and racial profiling in medicine. Her currently completed book manuscript focuses on the Department of Defense, the effects of integrated social networks on academic achievement, and what levels of school segregation reveal about racial attitudes in America.

**Deanna Wathington, MD, MPH, FAAFP**, is a public health practitioner and family physician. She is current Chair of the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association (APHA). Dr. Wathington is Medical Director of a Volunteers in Medicine clinic for the uninsured, Affiliate Professor, USF College of Public Health and USF College of Arts and Science. She formerly served as Executive Dean of the Petrock College of Health Sciences and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Bethune-Cookman University, she is a member of the Florida Public Health Association, and has served as director of Minority Health for the Florida Department of Health. Wathington earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School (now known as Rutgers University – New Jersey Medical School), Master of Public Health from Temple University, and baccalaureate in Zoology from Rutgers University. She completed residency training in Family Medicine at JFK Medical Center in New Jersey, and Bayfront Medical Center in Florida. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Wathington also serves on the HHS NPA Region IV Southeastern Health Equity Council and is a member of the founding editorial board of the *Journal of Healthcare Transformation*. Her work has centered on expanding diversity within the health professions, clinical-community linkages, equitable development and community health initiatives, women's health, and infant mortality disparities.

### *Afterword*

**Jasmine Ward, MPH, PhD**, is a proud graduate of Tuskegee University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa). She's an experienced public health professional dedicated to creating a culture of health through servant leadership, community organizing, restorative service, education, and social action. Dr. Ward created the Black Ladies in Public Health (BLiPH) community as an initial effort to provide a platform to cultivate and support relationships between Black ladies in the field of public health. Her personal and professional interest in equity in the workforce and health of community helped to shape the mission and vision of Black Ladies in Public Health. While BLiPH is an outgrowth of the digital social communities, there is a greater vision of creating a world where all Black Ladies in Public Health are engaged, valued, and empowered in all aspects of their lives. BLiPH.org is a part of the goal to provide multiplatform social solutions that connect and engage Black Ladies in Public health with one another, the community, and their allies.

## *Authors*



**[Ndidiamaka N. Amutah-Onukagha](#)**, PhD, MPH, CHES, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. Her current research interests include health disparities, reproductive health, maternal and infant mortality and HIV/AIDS in Black women. Ndidiamaka is a member of the American Public Health Association and is currently the co-chair of the Perinatal and Women's Health committee in the Maternal and Child Health section. Ndidiamaka is the Principal Investigator of two multi-year studies on maternal mortality and morbidity, an R01 funded by NIH and an interdisciplinary grant funded by RWJ. Also, she is a member of the MA-COVID 19 Maternal Equity Coalition and was honored with the APHA MCH Section's Young Professional of the Year Award in 2019. She is also in the 2020-2021 class of the top 40 under 40 Minority Leaders in Healthcare, an annual award given out the National Minority Quality Forum. Finally, Dr. Amutah-Onukagha is the Founder and Director of the Maternal Outcomes for Translational Health Equity Research Lab, (MOTHER) a research lab comprised of 35 students from undergrad to postdoc with an interest in reducing maternal health disparities experienced by Black women.

**Andrea A. Anderson, MD, FAAFP**, is a bilingual Family Physician and the Associate Chief of the Division of Family Medicine at the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She co-directs the Health Policy Scholarly Concentration and is the course director for the Transition to Residency Fourth Year required internship readiness capstone course. In 2019, she was appointed to the National Board of Directors of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) and is the first African American woman to be appointed to this role in the organization's fifty-year history. Dr. Anderson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a graduate of the Master Teacher Leadership Development Program. She is the Chair of the DC Board of Medicine and has been active in DC health policy and medical regulation. In 2020 she was appointed to the DC Health Scientific Advisory Committee for the Development and Implementation of a Safe, Effective, and Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program in the District of Columbia. She serves in national leadership roles for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), the Ethics and Professionalism Committee of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), the national Academic Family Medicine Advocacy Committee (AFMAC), and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) National Underrepresented Minority Faculty Development and Retention Task Force. Previously, Dr. Anderson spent 15 years in practice. She is an alumna of Brown University and Brown School of Medicine. Dr. Anderson completed her Family Medicine residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center where she served as the Chief Resident and an Academic Medicine Fellow.

**Traci N. Bethea, PhD, MPA**, is Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Since 2011, she has worked extensively with the Black Women's Health Study (BWHS), a prospective cohort of 59,000 Black women, and with the African American Breast Cancer Epidemiology and Risk Consortium. Her research focuses on racially- and socioeconomically-patterned health disparities with particular attention to estrogen receptor negative breast cancer and to neighborhood socioeconomic status. Her more recent work involves breast cancer survivorship in the BWHS, insomnia symptoms in the BWHS, exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in the Study of Environment, Lifestyle and Fibroids, and ovarian cancer in the Ovarian Cancer in Women of African Ancestry Consortium. Dr. Bethea's research program aims to "bridge the gap" between the biologic, individual, and macroenvironmental levels while working with multidisciplinary teams, which entails evaluating the complexity of social determinants of health and identifying modifiable risk factors at multiple levels. She seeks to identify aspects of both vulnerable and resilient individuals and communities in order to provide data that is actionable – either for future studies, policy development, or targeted interventions – to reduce health disparities.

**Leslie Bronner, MPH, DrPH, MD**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Bronner received her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Mathematics from Duke University, Master of Public Health from Boston University and Doctorate of Public Health in Epidemiology from Harvard University. She then returned to Duke for medical school where she also completed her residency in psychiatry. She conducted research at Duke in cognitive behavior therapy as well as worked at

Southlight, a substance abuse treatment center where she soon became their Medical Director. She was also Chair and Medical Director at Duke Regional Hospital psychiatry department. However, it was through her clinical work at Southlight, working with pregnant women and women with children, that she realized the impact of the intergenerational cycle of stressors such as abuse, neglect and poor parenting on the social and emotional development of children, as well as the development of mental illness. She now dedicates her career to understanding this cycle and making a positive impact through her clinical work. She is also rededicating herself to public health research with a focus on stress and the social determinants of disease.

**Yvonne Bronner, ScD**, is a Professor and founding director of the MPH/DrPH Program at Morgan State University and the Consortium of African American Public Health Programs (CAAPHP). She has a specialty in nutrition and maternal and child health and has focused on stress and the social determinants of health in the Black family across the life cycle. Her research has involved Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM), obesity reduction in school children as well as promoting breastfeeding through a project that first highlighted the role of Black males. She was a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Food and Nutrition Board, DHHS Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM), American Dietetic Association's Editorial Board as well as the 2005 (USDA/HHS) – U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

**Brittney Butlery** is a PhD candidate at The Ohio State University in the department of Epidemiology. Her research focuses on how structural racism and interpersonal experiences of discrimination impact pregnancy complications in Black women. Brittney is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar, where she receives supplemental training to translate scientific research to inform policy to build a culture of health. She is also the President for the Society of the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues. Brittney graduated from the University of Miami in 2010 with a degree in Biology and obtained her Master of Public Health from Washington University in St. Louis in 2013.

**Santiba Campbell, PhD, RYT-200**, is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Bennett College. Dr. Campbell received her B.A. in psychology from Winston-Salem State University, and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in the field of Social Psychology from the University of Delaware in Newark. Her basic research question addresses: What factors determine whether, in the face of perpetual threats posed by racism and racial discrimination, African Americans maintain positive psychological well-being, physical health, achieve success and reach personal goals or adopt negative self-images and other destructive behaviors? This is studied through the lens of racial identity development, intersectionality and contemplative practices with interest in college student success and satisfaction.

**Jayme Canty, PhD** is a native of North Carolina. Ms. Canty graduated summa cum laude in 2006 from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T) in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she received her bachelor's in arts degree in Political Science. After working as a paralegal in North Carolina for two years, she returned to school to complete her Master's degree in Africana Women's Studies at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. For her master's thesis, she conducted a case study of Black women who participated in the

Atlanta University Student Movement Protest in 1960 to determine how Black maternal figures “passed down” this notion of activism. After completing her master’s degree in 2011, she attended Clark Atlanta University to obtain a doctorate in Humanities, with concentrations in Africana Women’s Studies and Political Science. During her graduate studies, she taught several courses including: ‘Love and Sex’, ‘African Diaspora and the World’, ‘Black Feminism/The Black Woman’, and ‘Modern Period Humanities’. She obtained her doctorate in Fall 2017 with the dissertation entitled, “‘The Swelling Wave of Oppression’: The Intersectional Study of the Health Challenges of Black Heterosexual Women and Black Queer Women in the American South”. Her research focuses on the health challenges of Black women in the South, the experiences of Black queer women in the South, and the significance of maternal figures among Black women in the South. She now works as a visiting assistant professor of African American Studies at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

**Sheila Carrette, MPH**, is a public health specialist with a background in psychology, behavioral health, educational programming and international health. As the founder and CEO of Overcomer, Inc., Sheila uses her diverse background and expertise to develop effective public health programming which focuses on the social determinants of health, including education, housing, and employment. In her position as a health consultant for the World Bank Group, Sheila focuses much of her time on improving health and nutrition outcomes for individuals in countries facing fragility, conflict and violence. Through multi-stakeholder engagement, needs assessment missions, and system analyses, she works with governments to address key operational and systemic challenges in vulnerable health systems. Prior to her current positions, Sheila founded and directed The Hope Center, a food bank and resource center dedicated to assisting low-income families in Prince George’s County, Maryland and Washington, DC. Sheila holds a Bachelor of Science from University of Maryland; a Master's of Public Health from Liberty University; and is currently a Doctor of Public Health candidate at Morgan State University.

**Yvette C. Cozier, DSc, MPH**, is Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Dean of Diversity and Inclusion at Boston University School of Public Health and Epidemiologist at Slone Epidemiology Center. Dr. Cozier is an investigator on the Black Women’s Health Study (BWHS), a prospective follow-up of over 59,000 African American women begun in 1995. Dr. Cozier’s overall research focus is on the influence of psychosocial factors in the development of sarcoidosis, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. She has published several analyses of perceived racism in relation to hypertension, breast cancer incidence, weight gain, and mortality in the BWHS. In addition, she has published analyses of neighborhood socioeconomic status, including median household income and segregation, on the risks of hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. For the past several years, Dr. Cozier has been studying selected risk factors for sarcoidosis in the BWHS, including reproductive factors and genetic polymorphisms. She has also assessed the role of attitudes about spirituality and religiosity in health promotion and disease prevention efforts among Boston-area residents and clergy. New research areas in the BWHS include psychosocial factors and oral health, risk factors for lupus, and health conditions associated with aging.

**Rebekah Israel Cross, MA**, is a PhD candidate at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health in the Department of Community Health Sciences and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar. Her research involves measuring racism-related social determinants of health. Broadly she aims to unpack the relationships between racism, neighborhoods, and health. Specifically, she's interested in understanding how housing and community development policies influence health in Black communities. In 2011, she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with degrees in Sociology and Political Science. In May 2013, Rebekah earned a master's in Sociology from American University.

**Jenny Douglas, PhD**, completed her Women's Studies doctoral thesis on cigarette smoking and identity among African-Caribbean young women in contemporary British society. Douglas is passionate about the health and wellbeing of Black women. Her research is both varied and wide-ranging, spanning 30 years, on issues of race, health, gender and ethnicity. The key theme unifying her research and activism is intersectionality – exploring how 'race', class and gender affect particular aspects of African-Caribbean women's health. Jenny's interdisciplinary research approach brings together sociology, public health and women's studies and she has published widely on public health, health promotion and Black women's health. Jenny established and chairs the Black Women's Health and Wellbeing Research Network. ([www.open.ac.uk/Black-womens-health-and-wellbeing](http://www.open.ac.uk/Black-womens-health-and-wellbeing)) and her ambition is to establish an international research institute on the health and wellbeing of Black women. Jenny is a Senior Lecturer in Health Promotion in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies at the Open University. She has a PhD in Women's Studies from the University of York, an MA in Sociological Research in Health Care from the University of Warwick, an MSc in Environmental Pollution Control from the University of Leeds and a BSc (Hons) in Microbiology and Virology from the University of Warwick. She is an honorary member of the Faculty of Public Health and is a director of the UK Public Health Register. Jenny is a Research Affiliate of the Institute for Intersectionality Research and Policy, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada and a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Psychology at The George Washington University, Washington D.C., USA. She is a member of the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE).

**Charlene A. Flash, MD, MPH**, is the President and CEO of Avenue 360 Health and Wellness, a multi-site health system in Houston, TX that includes 6 clinics, a dental center, an AIDS hospice, an adult day activities program for people living with HIV and a health equity program that provides supportive housing. Dr. Flash is a thought leader in health care disparities and an expert on the implementation of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis, having developed one of the first comprehensive HIV prevention programs in the United States to prescribe HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to high-risk heterosexuals and men who have sex with men (MSM) in a real-world setting outside the context of a demonstration project or clinical trial. Dr. Flash holds a voluntary faculty position as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease at Baylor College of Medicine and at the University of Houston. She served as the Assistant Medical Director of HIV Prevention Services for Harris Health System in Houston, TX. An infectious disease physician, Dr. Flash provides primary care to patients living with HIV and PrEP to at risk individuals. Dr. Flash received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Yale University, an MD from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and an MPH in Quantitative Health Care Assessment from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Public Health. Dr. Flash completed a combined residency in Internal Medicine

and Pediatrics at Brown University, and a fellowship in adult Infectious Disease at Harvard University. Dr. Flash is board certified in Internal Medicine and adult Infectious Diseases.

**Mandy Hill, DrPH, MPH** is established as a dedicated and resilient public health practitioner whose core mission is to improve health by empowering the decision-making capacity of vulnerable populations and racial/ethnic minorities. Through this central theme, she establishes behavioral interventions to empower communities. By establishing relationships and sharing knowledge while developing and implementing programs, Mandy touches a broad cross-section of the population to restore their power and sense of self. Dr. Hill is the brainchild of an intervention (*Increasing PrEP*, i.e. iPrEP) that motivates women to prevent an HIV diagnoses through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake. Dr. Hill serves as the Director of Population Health in Emergency Medicine and Associate Professor at UTHHealth McGovern Medical School. Dr. Hill, a leader in this field for over a decade, is working to move the needle on this critical initiative in our community. Breaking history as the first full-time public health research faculty member in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Hill leads development and implementation of public health based prevention interventions to patients seeking care in the emergency department and community members at large. She is leading not only funded randomized studies in local emergency departments, but also collaborating on county health department efforts and statewide UT system programs.

**Christy Gamble Hines, JD, DrPH, MPH**, is an experienced policy professional with expertise in the law, policy, and research. Dr. Hines currently works at the intersection of health, tech, and social justice. Her advocacy for marginalized communities – by promoting policies and legislation that seek to eliminate health and economic disparities and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion – has garnered her significant recognition and praise from leading health, tech, and policy organizations. Dr. Hines has testified before Congress and state legislatures, published several opinion pieces in nationally-recognized professional publications, and provided political and legal analysis and commentary for various radio and television stations on issues impacting the health and well-being of marginalized populations, specifically Black women. Dr. Hines received her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law. She also holds a Dr.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and an M.P.H. in epidemiology and biostatistics from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

**Tamara Jeffries, MFA** is formerly Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Bennett College in North Carolina, and is now a senior editor at *Yoga Journal*. She came to the academy after more than two decades as a writer and editor for national publications, including *Essence*, where she was Executive Editor from 2000-2004. She was also Editor-in-Chief of *HealthQuest: The Publication of Black Wellness* and a Contributing Editor for *Health* magazine. Her writing has appeared in national, local and special-topics publications and she has also co-authored and edited several health-related books. Jeffries teaches yoga at Bennett, where she has developed a model for yoga instruction called Whole Yoga which helps intentionally infuse asana practice with philosophy, history and culture to address issues related to race, gender, body image, religion, identity and other diversities that impact students' experience of yoga and their ability to benefit from it. Profs. Jeffries and Campbell have presented their research on yoga and



diversity at the Yoga Service Conference at Omega Institute, University of Michigan Depression on College Campuses Conference and others. Their work is informed by a commitment to the academic study of yogic text and history, the acknowledgement of the complex evolution of yoga in the west, and inclusivity in yoga teaching practice. Both are members of Yoga Service Council and registered with Yoga Alliance were they also serve as members of the Ethics committee.

**Joylene John-Sowah**, MD, MPH, received her B.A. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1989 and her M.D. from Cornell University Medical College in 1994. She completed a residency in Family Practice at the University of Maryland, and a residency in General Preventive Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, during which she received her M.P.H. Dr. John-Sowah served as a medical officer at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Center for Translational Research and Implementation Science, where she was the Institute lead for Healthy People 2020 and also led the project which resulted in the landmark guidelines document *Evidence Based Management of Sickle Cell Disease: 2014 Expert Panel Report*. Dr. John-Sowah has substantial experience in grant writing, scientific document editing, and conducting evidence-based reviews, as a result of her positions at the NHLBI, and her years at the American Medical Association (AMA). While with the AMA, she directed the development of the "Expert Committee Recommendations on the Assessment, Prevention, and Management of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity, supported the AMA National Advisory Council on Violence and the Abuse and served as the AMA representative to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Currently Dr. John-Sowah is exploring new directions. She has launched Nansi Knows, an undertaking dedicated to supporting high school students as they aspire towards college and hopes to develop work that will leave a positive and lasting impact on the souls of the people with whom she interacts.

**Kelli Joiner**, BS, has completed two years in the MPH program at the Chamberlain University, School of Health Professions. She graduated from Sam Houston State University in 2016 with a Bachelors of Science in Public Health. She was a program coordinating intern at The Public Health Consulting Group, LLC [www.tphcg.net](http://www.tphcg.net) where she lead the groups social marketing campaign and coordinated onboarding of new clients and assignment of consultant teams to the projects. Kelli transitioned from an interest in clinical practice as an aspiring nurse to a career plan in public health practice. As a student, she engaged as an author on peer reviewed publications.

**Camara Jones**, MD, MPH, PHD is past president of the American Public Health Association (APHA). She is Senior Fellow of Satcher Health Leadership and Cardiovascular Research Institute as well as Adjunct Associate Professor of Community Health and Preventative Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is research director on social determinants of health and equity in the Division of Adult and Community Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and Adjunct Professor at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Dr. Jones is a family physician and epidemiologist whose work focuses on the impacts of racism on the health and well-being of the nation. She seeks to broaden the national health debate to include not only universal access to high quality health care, but also attention to the social determinants of health (including poverty) and the social determinants of equity (including racism).

**Dakota King-White, PhD**, joined Cleveland State University (CSU) in fall 2016 in the Department of Counseling, Administration, Supervision, and Adult Learning (CASAL). Within the department she is a core faculty member and coordinator of school counseling in the CACREP-accredited counseling program. Prior to coming to CSU, she received her Ph.D. in 2012 in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Toledo. She has an extensive background in working in K-12 education where she has served as a school counselor, mental health therapist, and administrator. Dr. King-White studies the psychological, emotional, and behavioral effects of parental incarceration and strategies to developing mental health models in K-12 schools. Through her research she has designed a group counseling curriculum for children of incarcerated parents, which has been implemented within K-12 education. Her most recent tool for children of incarcerated parents is a children's book, *Oh No! When a Parent Goes Away*. She has also created a mental health model that is used in K-12 education to help address the mental health needs of students within the academic setting. The model is an interdisciplinary approach to addressing mental health needs within schools. Dr. King-White is passionate about children succeeding and believes that ALL students can succeed if given the right tools and opportunities.

**Kelly Yu-Hsin Liao, PhD**, joined Cleveland State University as an assistant professor in fall 2016 in the Department of Counseling, Administration, Supervision, and Adult Learning. She is part of the core faculty in the APA-accredited counseling psychology specialization of the Urban Education Ph.D. program. She received her Ph.D. in 2011 in counseling psychology from Iowa State University after completing her internship at the University of Missouri-Columbia Student Counseling Center. Prior to joining CSU, she was a research scientist at the Culture and Health Research Center at the University of Houston. Dr. Liao studies coping with minority-related stress (e.g., acculturative stress, discrimination, stigma) among ethnic and LGBTQ individuals, positive psychology (e.g., self-compassion), and health psychology in ethnic minorities (e.g., psychosocial intervention for Chinese breast cancer survivors). Her current projects include developing a self-compassion writing intervention to cope with racism among African-American students, exploring the Strong Black Women stereotype and coping responses, examining the psychological benefits of gratitude among Chinese international students, and investigating the role of perceived burden in the health outcomes of Chinese cancer survivors.

**Yasmeen Long, MA** is a public health and research professional with combined experience and expertise in academia, health policy, patient-centered research, stakeholder and community engagement, and global health. Her career in public health has primarily focused on improving health outcomes, eliminating disparities, promoting health equity, social determinants of health and improving the quality of life for underrepresented and vulnerable communities particularly for women. She earned an M.A. in sociology and women's health from Suffolk University in Boston, MA, and a B.Sc. in health sciences from Howard University in Washington, DC. She serves on advisory committees and leadership councils focused on addressing health inequities and disparities, health and wellness, and advocates for policies that affect the well-being of women's health throughout the life course.

**Bisola Ojikutu, MD, MPH**, is an infectious disease specialist and health equity researcher who has dedicated her career to overcoming racial and ethnic disparities and mitigating the impact of structural racism on infectious disease transmission and prevention, particularly HIV. Dr.

Ojikutu is an Associate Physician within the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Department of Global and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is also a faculty member within the Infectious Disease Divisions at Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General Hospitals. Her research explores medical and research mistrust and barriers to accessing HIV prevention and care, particularly among women of color and immigrant populations. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Committee for the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and serves as the Director of the Community Engaged Research Program and the Associate Director of the Bio-Behavioral and Community Science Core. Dr. Ojikutu is co-editor of two comprehensive textbooks, *HIV in US Communities of Color* (first and second editions 2009 and 2020). She is co-chair of the Comprehensive Care Committee within the Getting to Zero MA Statewide Coalition and a leader within the Suffolk County Ending the HIV Epidemic Steering Committee. She is the PI of a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Comparative Effectiveness Trial focused on PrEP uptake among Black women. In addition, Dr. Ojikutu maintains an active clinical practice focused on HIV and women's health, is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, and is a Fellow in the Infectious Disease Society of America.

**Folake Olavinka, MPH** is a recent Master's of Public Health graduate in Epidemiology & Biostatistics and Maternal and Child Health from Boston University School of Public Health. Currently, she works as an Epidemiologist at the Texas Department of State Health Services. During her undergraduate studies, Folake conducted an independent research study for the Honors Track on the health care and diagnosis of African-Americans with Schizophrenia which opened her eyes to the health disparities often fueled by socioeconomic status. Her public health interest is a deep commitment to decreasing infant and maternal mortality in the disadvantaged community by promoting justice and health equity. In 2018, she was awarded the MASS NOW Feminist in Action Grant for the founding of the feminist guide organization and 'round the table' podcast which aims to educate women on the importance of feminism and ultimately create the next wave of African feminists. As the CEO of the Feminist Guide, she spends her time writing various articles which includes: the importance of feminism, racial discrimination/sexism, and reproductive/health discrepancies according to race. Also, she serves as the Administrative Executive of the New England Medical Association (NEMA), implementing changes to NEMA's structure and connecting with Black physicians in the New England area. Lastly, as an advocate for global childhood vaccination, she is part of the United Nations Shot at Life organization which advocates for immunization of children in vulnerable countries by campaigning to members of congress in Capital Hill.

**Esther V. Piervil, PhD, MPH**, is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and public health consultant with over 10 years of experience designing and conducting behavioral science and community health research. She currently serves as a research and evaluation specialist providing population health services to governmental and commercial agencies in the areas of chronic disease prevention and management among high risk, vulnerable, and hard-to-reach populations. Her work aims to streamline wellness programs and health initiatives using evidenced-based theories to drive the application of culturally tailored, community-based implementation strategies. She is also an affiliate of Spelman College and Baylor University.

**Portia Jackson Preston, DrPH, MPH**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at California State University, Fullerton. Her research focuses on multilevel approaches to self-care, and stress as a driver of health inequity. She has published previously on professional quality of life, well-being, and self-care practices among university staff serving high-need student populations, and the role of organizations in mitigating workforce burnout. Her recent projects examine stress and coping practices among university staff and undergraduate students. She speaks widely on individual and organization level strategies to promote well-being and sustainable performance. She received her Bachelor's degree from Stanford University, her Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and her Doctorate of Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Mya L. Roberson, MSPH**, is PhD candidate in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health and is an incoming assistant professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Department of Health Policy. As a graduate student Mya was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar where her dissertation examined differences in the surgical treatment of breast cancer for Black women residing in urban and rural areas of North Carolina. Broadly, she is interested in achieving health equity in cancer care delivery for Black people in the US South. She is the recipient of the American Association for Cancer Research Thomas J. Bardos Science Education Award and is a Truman Scholar.

**Elice E. Rogers, EdD**, is a tenured associate professor in adult learning and development at Cleveland State University. She serves as program coordinator of graduate programs in adult learning and development and is a member of the graduate faculty. Rogers is a Cyril O. Houle Scholar in the field of Adult Education and is recognized as a Kellogg Foundation scholar. Her publications include *Adult Education in an Urban Context: Problems, Practices, and Programming for Inner-City Communities: New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education* and "Afritics from Margins to Center: Theorizing the Politics of African American Women as Political Leaders in *Journal of Black Studies*.

**Joedrecka S. Brown Speights, MD, FAAFP** is Professor and Chair, Family Medicine and Rural Health at Florida State University College of Medicine, fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and fellowship trained in maternal child health (MCH). She is the 2018 recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Distinguished Service Award, Florida State University. Her experience includes serving as medical director of the National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health, Office of Women's Health, Department of Health and Human Services at Turley Family Health Center (USF Morton Plant Mease Family Medicine Residency), where she practiced full scope family medicine including operative obstetrics, and global health. She is an alumna of the Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University and completed medical training at Emory University School of Medicine before completing the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency (FL). She is an inaugural fellow of the George Washington University Leaders for Health Equity International Fellowship, now Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity. Her interests include promotion of health equity through community-engaged research, clinical care, advocacy, and education. She is also focused on faculty vitality, mentoring, wellness promotion, and empowerment of women and girls. Her favorite times are

with her husband, Gregory, family and friends, and traveling pre-COVID19. She and her husband co-pastor University Ministries International.

**Jovonni R. Spinner**, MPH, CHES, is a results-driven, award winning visionary public health strategist committed to improving health equity across the life span. She creates culturally competent health education and training programs and leads equity-driven conversations advocating for minority health. She builds multi-sector partnerships and oversees long-term strategic plans, guided by scientific evidence and regulatory policy to implement balanced decisions. While at the Food and Drug Administration, she uses a people-centric leadership style to inspire and boost team performance, build organizational culture, facilitate change management, and nurture talent. All while shifting mindsets of colleagues and advising senior leadership to use an equity lens to address health disparities, policies and systematic change. She leads state and national health programs like the FDA's Diversity in Clinical Trials Initiative, NIH's Community Health Worker Health Disparities Initiative, and Virginia's Vaccines for Children Program; reaching millions of consumers to help each make better informed health decisions, obtain health services, and advocate for healthier communities. She is an alum of Virginia Commonwealth, Emory, and Morgan State Universities; remains active in her community serving on nonprofit boards, writing women's health articles, mentoring early-career professionals, and serving as a public health adjunct professor.

**Tiffany D. Thomas**, MCD is the Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Community Development in the School of Architecture. While at Prairie View, she has led engaged research efforts in partnership with community-based organizations, rural and urban governments, and peer institutions focused in historically Black neighborhoods. Her work is featured in the Journal of Community Development, Local Development and Society, Contemporary Issues in Social Justice, and most recently, Black Women and Public Health. Tiffany is an authority in community engagement and leverages divested neighborhoods as learning environments for social change. She is also affiliated with the Community Innovation Lab at the University of Kentucky, co-teaching "Innovations in Community Engagement," a project funded by Purdue University. Tiffany currently is elected to Houston's City Council, the first Black woman to represent District F.

**Alisa Valentin**, PhD is the Communications Justice Fellow at Public Knowledge, a consumer advocacy organization, in Washington, DC. In her current role, Dr. Valentin advocates for social justice policies related to digital inclusion, artificial intelligence, and intellectual property. Dr. Valentin has a record of published academic research and she has presented at several national and international communications conferences. Additionally, Dr. Valentin has taught communications and women's studies courses at several colleges and universities in the DC area including Howard University, Trinity Washington University, and Montgomery College. Dr. Valentin received her Ph.D. from the Communication, Culture, and Media Studies at Howard University. She also holds an M.S. in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and a B.S. in Telecommunications from the University of Florida.

**Judy C. Washington**, MD, FAAFP, is an associate director and the Women's Health Coordinator for Overlook Family Medicine. Dr. Washington has been involved in undergraduate

medical and graduate medical education since 1996 when she joined the faculty of the East Tennessee State- James Quillen School of Medicine as an assistant professor and residency program faculty at the Chattanooga Family Medicine Residency Program. She was an assistant professor at the UMDNJ-NJ Medical School (now Rutgers School of Health Science) Family Medicine Department, assistant director of medical student education, and the family medicine clerkship director. Dr. Washington received her BS degree from the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, AL, and her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. She completed her residency in family medicine at Mountainside Family Medicine in Verona, NJ. She is committed to physician wellness and completed yoga teacher training and certification. Through her work as a trustee and officer of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Foundation, she is committed to increasing the number of URM (underrepresented in medicine) family medicine residents and faculty and mentoring the next generation of Family Medicine educators.