PROMOTING EQUITY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PROVIDING RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND OUTREACH UPDATES FROM THE CURTIS CENTER

WINTER 2023 DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Letter from our Acting Director

Happy New Year everyone! With the new year comes new opportunities to continue to expand our work in health equity. In 2023, our center is embarking on several new projects from evaluating state public health initiatives across the country to adapting evidence-based interventions here in Michigan. Our faculty affiliates, spread across the nation and abroad, are engaged in new and innovative work to address health inequities in a diverse array of populations. This semester, we look forward to sharing some of this work through events sponsored by the Curtis Center via our continued Health Equity Seminar Series and a new joint venture with the Rogel Cancer Center. Wishing you all a happy and productive new year.

Jaclynn M. Hawkins, PhD, MSW
Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work
Acting Director, Curtis Center
Co-Director, Pilot and Feasibility Program, MCDTR

CURTIS CENTER SIGNATURE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Young Black Men (YBMen) Project

Here's a short video to learn more about our featured Signature Program from YBMen Managing Directing Keith Miller, Jr. Watch the video at this link or by clicking the video below.

Visit the YBMen Website

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. **Hawkins** and **Kate Kloss** attended the 12th Annual MI Men's Health Event at Ford Field in Detroit on October 8th. The event supports men and their families by providing free health screenings and community resources.

In November, Dr. **Jamie Mitchell**'s community advisory board members went to the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Conference to present a poster, "Preparing the Ground: Developing Community-Based Strategies to Engage Older Black Men in Health Research" to help guide more community outreach initiatives and increase recruitment efforts for 2023.

In October, the Curtis Center team volunteered at Food Gatherers.

In November, the Curtis Center team enjoyed a nice holiday lunch, hosted by the Curtis Center's Acting Director, Dr. Jaclynn **Hawkins**.

NEW FACULTY AFFILIATES

Dr. **Gretchen Piatt**, Department Vice Chair of Learning Health Sciences, Associate Chair for Education Programs, Associate Professor of Learning Health Sciences, Associate Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, Director of the Health Infrastructures and Learning Systems (HILS) Program, Director of Precision Health Graduate Certificate Program

Dr. **Natasha Johnson**, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Columbia University

Dr. **Janelle Goodwill**, Neubauer Family Assistant Professor, The University of Chicago

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW GRADUATES!

Katie Kurnick, MSW
Graduate Student Research Assistant
The University of Michigan

Srijani Sengupta, BS, Biology, Health, and Society
Undergraduate Research Assistant

The University of Michigan

SAVE THESE DATES!

Health Disparities & Equity Symposium

Tuesday, February 7th, 11:30 am - 1:00pm ET

Register Here

Achieving Health Equity in Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Psycho-Oncology Care

Join us in a dynamic conversation with four experts in the field as we identify the unique challenges AYA cancer patients within social subgroups face, consider the intersectional impacts of these identities on achieving equitable health care service delivery, and discuss multi-level solutions to these challenges as a forward-looking direction for the field of AYA psycho-oncology.

Curtis Center Health Equity Seminar Series

Thursday, March 30th, 1:00pm - 2:00pm ET

Curtis Center External Advisory Board member, Dr. Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD, LCSW-C, is a Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Dr. **Frey's** research areas are, Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), Health and Productivity Management, Financial Capability and Economic Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention. Click here to read more about Dr. Frey's work.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Dr. **Ed-Dee Williams** presented at our fall Curtis Center Health Equity Seminar on Nov. 10th! You can view the video on our website here.

In October, Dr. Jaclynn **Hawkins**, Co-Director of the Pilot and Feasibility Core at the Michigan Center for Diabetes Translational Research (MCDTR), hosted the MCDTR Training in Diabetes Translational Research in Health Equity. This training supported early career researchers in understanding the goals and methodologies of health equity translational research and translational science and how to build a career in this field.

Dr. **Katie Schultz** presented "*Developing and implementing a social network study with American Indian youth on a Northern Plains reservation*" with Dr. Jerreed Ivanich, at the Native Children's Research Exchange 2022, in Denver, CO.

Dr. **Anao Zhang** was a panelist at ENGAGE's virtual discussion titled Trauma-Informed Interpersonal Practice with Marginalized Clients. The slides that were used during the discussion are available here.

In December, Dr. Kara **Zivin** gave the keynote address, "*Implications of recent*

health policy for women's reproductive mental health," at Florida's 7th Annual Perinatal Mental Health Conference: "Perinatal Mental Health Equity: Making a Difference Together".

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Under Dr. **Watkins**'s leadership, the Curtis Center was selected, by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the CDC, to evaluate two state health departments, to examine the extent to which they have "*improved capacity and services to address COVID-19 health disparities, and advance health equity among populations at higher risk, and that are underserved*". We are currently evaluating the Washington State Department of Health's "Equitable Funding Allocation Methodology" – which has both quantitative and qualitative decision-making components to distribute grant funding equitably. And the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' "Healthier Together Initiative" - a public-private partnership with NCCounts, to increase the number of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and from other historically marginalized populations receiving COVID-19 vaccinations across the state of North Carolina.

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF), in collaboration with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST) and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), is conducting a national health initiative entitled, "*Research Matters: Creating Possibilities to Achieve Health and Wellness for All of Us*." The initiative is made possible by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *All of Us Research Program*. The ultimate objective is to enroll African Americans in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) national registry, creating a database that significantly includes their engagement as potential participants for clinical trials. On November 10, Dr. **Hawkins** and Kate **Kloss** had the opportunity to present for this group on African American men and type 2 diabetes: lessons learned and the road ahead in program research!

Work continues on our Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) project, a Behavioral Health Collaborative for Young Black Men and Boys. Dr. **Watkins**'s YBMen team and Packard Health were funded to develop a network of community organizations committed to services and coordinated care models that address the behavioral health needs of young Black men and boys in Washtenaw County. We hired a Community Engagement Manager, **Kiyoshi Shelton**, and have been meeting with a core group of organizations that are now positioned to deliver programming to support Black boys and young men, and the village of support around them.

The Curtis Center partnered with the UM Cardiac Surgery Department Clothing Drive for House By the Side of the Road. It was a huge success, far surpassing the goal of 800 items of new clothes for our neighbors in need this year! Together with other partners, we helped to collect 1,046 items, including $11,939 through the Amazon wishlist.

Dr. Jamie **Mitchell** and her team tailored recruitment efforts in Flint, MI towards Black men by utilizing targeting recruitment events, creating tailored video promotions, and launching the EngageUS website to focus on recruiting older African Americans to a research registry for non-invasive health research. This was done through the Recruiting and Retaining Older African Americans into Research R24 grant along with the guidance of their community advisory board members.

RESEARCH IMPACT

GRANTS

Dr. **Hawkins** received a three-year Innovative Transformational Research to Reduce Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity in Diabetes grant from the American Diabetes Association for her study, "*Program AACTIVE (African Americans Coming Together to Increase Vital Exercise): A Combination CBT and Physical Activity Intervention for Black Men with Type 2 Diabetes*."

Dr. **Anao Zhang** received a two-year Engagement Award Project from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for his project, Partnering to Advance Psycho-Oncology Services for Underrepresented Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer. Read more about the award and the team's transdisciplinary work here.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Schultz, K. & Spencer, M. S. (2022, April). Centering Indigenous research & communities in advancing anti-racist research. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*.

Ribeiro Brown, B., **Williams**, E.-D.G., **Abelson**, J.M., **Chandrakapure**, A., & **Watkins**, D.C. (2022, June). An Exploratory Case Study of the Types of Resources Black Boys Use to Support Their Mental Health. *Healthcare.*

Cascino, T.M., Somanchi, S., Colvin, M., Chung, G.S., Brescia, AA., Pienta, M., Thompson, M.P., Stewart, J.W., Sukul, D., **Watkins**, D. C., Pagani, F.D., Likosky, D.S., Aaronson, K.D., & McCullough, J.S. (2022, July). Racial and gender inequities in the utilization of and outcomes after left ventricular assist devices among Medicare patients: A retrospective cohort study. *JAMA Open.*

Fedina, L., Shyrokonis, Y., Backes, B., **Schultz**, K., Ashwell, L., Hafner, S., & Rosay, A. (2022, September). Intimate partner violence, economic insecurity, and health outcomes among American Indian and Alaska Native men and women: findings from a national sample. *Violence Against Women.*

Ivanich, J. D., & **Schultz**, K. A. (2022, September). A call for expansion and innovation in research on protective factors and suicide prevention among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*.

Cuffee, Y. L., Wang, M., Geyer, N. R., Saxena, S., Akuley, S.,**Jones**, L. & Wilson, R. T. (2022, September). Vitamin D and family history of hypertension in relation to hypertension status among college students. *Journal of Human Hypertension*.

Zhang, A., Wang, K. Acquati, C., Kamat, A., & Walling, E. (2022, September).Age as a moderator for the association between depression and self-rated health among cancer survivors: a U.S. based population study. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*.

Cascino, T. M., Colvin, M. M., Lanfear, D. E., Richards, B., Khalatbari, S., Mann, D. L., Taddei-Peters, W. C., Jeffries, N., **Watkins**, D. C., Stewart, G. C., Aaronson, K. D., & REVIVAL Investigators. (2022, October). Racial inequities in access to

ventricular assist device and transplant persist after consideration for preferences for care: A report from the REVIVAL study. *Circulation: Heart Failure*.

Wang, K., **Zhang**, A., Cuevas, A. G., De Fries, C. M., Hinton, L., & Falcón, L. M. (2022, October). The association between post-traumatic stress and depressive symptoms among older Puerto Ricans in Boston: How does loneliness matter? *Journal of Aging and Health*.

Weaver, A., Landry, C., **Zhang**, A., McQuown, L., Hahn, J., Harrington, M., Tucker, K. M., Holzworth, J., Buys, T., Smith, F. N., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Pfeiffer, P. N., Kilbourne, A. M., & Himle, J. A. (2022, October). Study protocol: A randomized controlled trial of Raising Our Spirits Together, an entertaining, group-based technology-assisted cognitive behavioral therapy for depression, tailored for rural adults and delivery by clergy. *Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications*.

Acquati, C., Hibbard, J. H., Miller-Sonet, E., **Zhang**, A., & Ionescu, E. (2022, October). Patient activation and treatment decision-making in the context of cancer: examining the contribution of informal caregivers' involvement. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship.*

Goodwill, J. R., & Yasui, M. (2022, October). Mental health service utilization, school experiences, and religious involvement among a national sample of Black adolescents who attempted suicide: Examining within and cross-race group differences. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.

Lateef, H. A., Gale, A., Boyd, D., Arab, H., Amoako, E., & **Williams**, E. (2022, October). African-Centered Social Work in the 21st Century: A Content Analysis. *Social Work*.

Williams, E. G., Smith, M. J., & Boyd, B. (2022, November). Perspective: The role of diversity advisory boards in autism research. *Autism*.

Wang, K., **Zhang**, A., De Fries, C. M., & Hasche, L. K. (2022, December). Education moderates the association between depressive symptoms and self-rated health among older adults with cancer. *Health & Social Work*.

Burns, J., Reeves, J., Adams, M., Darville-Sanders, G., Johnstone, K. A., Jr, Ozuna-Harrison, R., Johnson, K., Ware, D., Shade, G. H., Jr, & Bradley, W. W., Sr. (2022, December). Young Men's Health Matters: Implementing a community-academic partnership in an urban federally qualified health center. Inquiry: A Journal of Medical Care Organization, Provision and Financing.

Watkins, D. C., & **Johnson**, N. C. (2023, January). Advancing education research through mixed methods with existing data. Chapter in *International Encyclopedia of Education* (4th ed., vol. 12).

Fleming, P. J., Stone, L. C., Creary, M. S., Greene-Moton, E., Israel, B. A., Key, K. D., ... & Schulz, A. J. (2023, January). Antiracism and Community-Based Participatory Research: Synergies, Challenges, and Opportunities. *American Journal of Public Health*. For the University of Michigan School of Public Health's article about Dr. Fleming's essay, click here.

Tabb, K. M., Dalton, V. K., Tilea, A., Kolenic, G. E., Admon, L. K., Hall, S. V., ... & **Zivin**, K. (2023, January). Trends in antenatal depression and suicidal ideation diagnoses among commercially insured childbearing individuals in the United States, 2008–2018. *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

Cascino, T.M., Colvin, M., Lanfearb, D., Richards, B., Khalatbari, S., Mann, D. L.,

Taddei-Peters, W. C., Jeffriese, N., **Watkins**, D. C., Stewart, G. C., & Aaronson, K. D. (Accepted). Racial inequities in access to VAD and transplant persist after consideration for preferences for care: A report from the Registry Evaluation for Vital Information for VADs in Ambulatory Life (REVIVAL). *Circulation: Heart Failure.*

Spolum, M., Lopez, W., **Watkins**, D. C., & **Fleming**, P. J. (Accepted). Reducing the harms of policing through alternative unarmed response teams. *American Journal of Public Health.*

Varma, D.S., Samuels, E., **Piatt**, G., **Watkins**, D. C., Spiroff, M., Cottler, L., Gaxiola, S. A., & Murphy, S. L., (Accepted). Community health workers and promotoras' perspectives of a research best practice course: A focus group study. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science.*

Watkins, D. C., **Brown**, B.R., **Abelson**, J.M., & **Ellis**, J. (In Press). First-Generation Black College Men and the Value of Cohort-Based Programs: Addressing Inequities Through the YBMen Project. In *Health promotion with adolescent boys and young men of colour: Global strategies for advancing research, policy and practice in context.* Co-Edited Book. Springer: New York, NY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY?

Land Acknowledgement

"We acknowledge that The University of Michigan, named for Michigami, the world's largest freshwater system and located in the Huron River watershed, was formed and has grown through connections with the land stewarded by Niswi Ishkodewan Anishinaabeg: The Three Fires People who are the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi along with their neighbors the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee and Wyandot nations."

Connect with us!

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