



Maternal Health Research Collaborative

FOR MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS

ASPHN MSU MHE FELLOW RESEARCH PAIR & SHARE

DATE: March 18, 2024
TIME: 7:00pm-9:00pm

 York and Clark Room



Statements

STEVEN OWENS, MD, MPH, MA

Director, ASPHN Health Equity Fellowship Program

The Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) Health Equity Fellowship Program seeks to improve health outcomes for all communities across the United States. For over two decades, the health equity fellowship program has provided access and opportunities for students of minority serving institutions (MSI) to acquire skills in health promotion and chronic disease prevention. As the fellowship program continues to evolve, we are thrilled to build up our expertise and expand opportunities in family and maternal health.

Maternal health research is a critical component in ASPHN Health Equity Fellowship program's ongoing efforts to improve health outcomes for families, mothers, and their children, particularly in underserved and marginalized communities. Collaborating with minority-serving academic institutions plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, as these institutions often have unique insights and connections to the populations most affected by disparities in maternal health.

By partnering with MSIs focused on maternal health research, the fellowship program can ensure that our health promotion and disease prevention activities with their research are inclusive, culturally competent, and directly addresses the specific needs of diverse communities. These collaborations facilitate the development of tailored interventions and policies that are more likely to be effective in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity rates among minority populations.

Furthermore, such partnerships help to build capacity within these institutions and their students to foster the next generation of public health professionals and researchers who are committed to equity in family and maternal health. This is essential for creating a sustainable and inclusive public health system that meets the needs of all families and mothers, regardless of their background.

In summary, the importance of family and maternal health research cannot be overstated, and collaborations with public health training programs and MSIs are crucial for advancing our understanding and improving outcomes in maternal health. Together, we can work towards a future where every family and mother have access to the care and support they need for a healthy pregnancy, childbirth and health outcomes.



MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY - MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY COORDINATING CENTER (MSU MHE CC)

YVONNE BRONNER, ScD, MSPH
Principal Investigator

KESHA BAPTISTE-ROBERTS, PhD, MPH
Co- Principal Investigator

Maternal mortality in the United States, identified as a major health crisis, has risen from 174 deaths/100,000 live births in 2018 to 32.9 deaths /100,000 live births in 2021, an almost 90% increase in just four years. In addition to this rapid increase, the rates for African American birthing persons (69.9/100,000 live births in 2021) is 2.6 times that for white birthing persons (26.6/100,000 live births in 2021), an unacceptable disparity that is increasing at an alarming rate. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded the Maternal Health Research Collaborative for Minority Serving Institutions (MH-RC-MSIs) [hereafter referred to as The MSI Collaborative] to establish a multi-institutional research network focused on building the capacity of MSIs to conduct research that addresses both the crisis and disparities in maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and poor maternal health outcomes. The Collaborative consists of 16 Research Centers (RCs) located in the following states: AL, CA, FL, GA, HI, MD, MS, NY, OH, TN, and TX, and the Morgan State University Maternal Health Equity Coordinating Center. The 16 RCs important because they are located where the maternal health problems are most severe, they educate students who often come from these areas and wish to go back and practice where the risk is high and, have been underrepresented and under-resourced to conduct research in the past due to policies limiting their access to funding opportunities. The MSI Collaborative will encourage and support research that is community-engaged and community-informed, and that effectively solves problems identified and supported by the community. Priority research will address the social, structural, and political determinants of health, reported to be the preventable cause of more than 60% of the maternal mortality in the U.S.

The MSU MHE CC will work with the 16 RCs over the next five years to: (1) facilitate building capacity to conduct community engaged and informed maternal health research directed toward decreasing the disparity in maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity and increase maternal health status, (2) Develop a mentoring program/learning community to facilitate the development of early stage investigators at multiple levels to meet the manpower needs for this research now and in the future, and (3) provide technical assistance as needed to accomplish the projects goals and objectives.

The MSI Collaborative welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Association of State Public Health Nutrition (ASPHN) to advance the goal of promoting the development of early-stage investigators that can learn about the maternal health crisis in the United States with the hope that many will go on to practice in this area. We are pleased to have twenty-seven ASPHN Maternal Health Fellows funded this semester and wish to express our thanks to Dr Owens and the ASPHN Program for this opportunity to partner.

The MSI Collaborative partners with currently active state and local Maternal and Child health providers, resource centers, community- based organizations, youth and community liaisons to ensure that the research is relevant. They also collaborate with community partners to disseminate information to all stakeholders at multiple levels using a variety of communication strategies that are appropriate to each audience. Finally, the Collaborative will evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their productivity, efficiency and public health impact on the maternal health crisis and disparities while advancing maternal health equity.

Project Description

Maternal Health Research Collaborative for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)

The Maternal Health Research Collaborative for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs, including HBCUs - Historically Black Colleges and Universities) [Hereafter referred to as the MSI Collaborative] was launched to establish a research network that is comprised of and supports minority-serving institutions to study health disparities in maternal health outcomes. Overall US maternal mortality has increased from 7.2 per 100,000 live births in 1987 to 32.9 in 2021 with women of color experiencing a marked increase. The mortality rate among African American women (69.9 deaths) is nearly three times that of non-Hispanic White women (26.6 deaths). There are many factors driving this increase including disparities in social determinants of health, and inadequate research participation of MSIs that have a demonstrated record and historical commitment to serving underrepresented students and their communities. The MSI Collaborative is composed of sixteen Research Centers (RC) located at MSIs in the following states: AL, CA, DC, FL, GA, HI, MD, MS, NY, OH, PR, TN, and TX across the country and a Coordinating Center (CC) located at Morgan State University.

The purpose of the MSI Collaborative is to build their capacity to conduct research addressing disparities in maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity and maternal health outcomes while engaging with communities to find relevant community-informed solutions and advancing health equity. The 16 RCs will conduct applied research to understand and address the root causes of the disparities in maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity and maternal health outcomes by finding community-based solutions. The Coordinating Center will build the capacity of the RCs to conduct maternal health research and provide support in meeting the RCs project objectives while enhancing the RCs productivity, efficiency and public health impact. The Coordinating Center will also collect data to measure and evaluate the MSI Collaborative's impact and effectiveness.

The **Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) Health Equity Fellowship Program** mission is to strengthen the development of underrepresented students and diversify the public health workforce by creating partnerships between Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), students from underrepresented populations, and the public health community. The ASPHN Fellows are placed in state agencies, local health departments, academic institutions, national and local organizations to gain experience and skills in the core competencies of public health and health education. The ASPHN fellows learn about health equity, the social determinants of health, health promotion, and chronic disease prevention over 12 weeks. In Spring 2024, we have nearly 90 Fellows from 32 academic institutions participating in four cohorts; CORE, Maternal Health, HBCU Alliance Team and cardiovascular disease (CVD).

In the area of Maternal Health, we have partnered with the Maternal Health Research Center MSI Coordinating Center to engage 30 ASPHN Fellows to increase their knowledge of maternal health education, maternal health equities, disparities, social determinants, and other areas. The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Conference provides us with the opportunity for in-person learning and discussion of maternal health and other public health topics impacting communities throughout the United States.

Agenda

ASPHN MSU MHE FELLOW RESEARCH PAIR & SHARE

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Yvonne Bronner, PI

7:00pm - 7:15pm

RESEARCH SHARING WITH PARTNERS & PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH

— 3 Minute Presentation

7:15pm - 8:45pm

Q&A AND FEEDBACK SESSION

8:45pm - 8:55pm

CLOSING REMARKS

8:55pm - 9:00pm

ASPHN FELLOW	SCHOOL	PRECEPTOR	RESEARCH TOPIC SUMMARY
Chukwunomso Akanaga	Morgan State University	Rebecca Trenz, PhD	Examining the impact of HIV on maternal health and fetal development in Black women during pregnancy and post-pregnancy
Alexa Antonchorgy	Tennessee State University	Wendelyn Inman, PhD	Relationship between maternal morbidity and BMI among African American women of childbearing age
Olympia Baryayebwa	Morgan State University	Mackessa L. Holt, DrPH, M.Div, MPH	COVID, flu and RSV effects on child and maternal health
Kyla Baron	Howard University	Rochanda Mitchell, DO, RD	TBD
Keyah Brown	Tuskegee University	Deloris Alexander, PhD	TBD
Nadiyah Bunzy	Morehouse School of Medicine	Natalie Hernandez-Green, PhD, MPH	TBD
Honghui (Amber) Chang,	Texas A&M University	Heidi Vanden Brink, PhD	Nutrition-related health disparities among underrepresented US women
Rachelle Chanmany-Pastor	Loma Linda University	Lisa Roberts, DrPH	Impact of climate change on dehydration among pregnant people with sickle cell disease
Alexis Cunningham	Meharry Medical College	Leah Alexander, PhD, MPH	Insights on maternal health of African American women from all of US (HHS) research data
Bukola Daramola	Morgan State University	Lorece Edwards, DrPH	Consequences of Hepatitis B infection in MCH
Rachel Donison	University of Texas Arlington	Kyrah K. Brown, PhD	Engaging maternal health stakeholders in systems thinking

ASPHN FELLOW	SCHOOL	PRECEPTOR	RESEARCH TOPIC SUMMARY
Gabrielle Flynn	Morgan State University	Mackessa L. Holt, DrPH, M.Div, MPH	The impact of vaccinations on maternal and child health
Tiara Glasgov	Florida International University	Okezi Otovo, PhD	TBD
Makayla Graham	Texas Southern University	Carla Brailey, PhD, M.Div	Equitable beginnings: Understanding maternal health experiences of neurodivergent Black women
Amber Granite, IBC, GPCE	University of Hawaii	Mary Tschann, PhD, MPH	Supporting WIC families through access to cultural produce & nutrition education in Hawai'i
Laura Marcela Hernandez Delgado	Morgan State University	Keshia Baptiste Roberts, PhD, MPH	Exploring the impact of preconception metabolic markers on birth outcomes
Chyna Howe	Mercy University	Rebecca Trenz, PhD	Parental self-efficacy, mental health, substance use, and barriers to treatment among underrepresented mothers past the postpartum period
Temileye Ibirinde	Morgan State University	Mackessa L. Holt, DrPH, M.Div, MPH	Reducing maternal mortality among African American women through cardiovascular health improvement
Jada Jones	Morgan State University	Mackessa L. Holt, DrPH, M.Div, MPH	Effect of intimate partner violence on maternal health
Annelise Massimo	Mercy University	Rebecca Trenz, PhD	TBD
Kristen Oguno,	Meharry Medical College, School of Applied Computational Science	Aize Cao, PhD	Polycystic ovary syndrome detection without the use of ultrasound technology using machine learning model and optimized feature selection

ASPHN FELLOW	SCHOOL	PRECEPTOR	RESEARCH TOPIC SUMMARY
Terri Kim Paden	Loma Linda University	Lisa Roberts, DrPH	Improving reproductive health outcomes with gene therapy education for young adults diagnosed with sickle cell disease (SCD)
Demarre Richmond	Morgan State University	Kesha Baptiste Roberts, PhD, MPH	The impact of telehealth utilization during pregnancy on maternal health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Samira Sainsurin, MS	Ohio State University	Dr. Seuli Bose Brill	Maternal mental health disparities among Caribbean women
Sydney Sharp	Morgan State University	Mackessa L. Holt, DrPH, M.Div, MPH	The relationship between maternal health, diabetes, and hypertension
Brianna Smith	Ohio State University	Dr. Seuli Bose Brill	Community-engaged implementation strategies in the provision of maternal health care
Fuxue Xin	Meharry Medical College, School of Applied Computational Science	Aize Cao, PhD	Explore social determinants of health associated with substance use disorder of pregnant and postpartum women
Aniyah Yisreal	Morehouse School of Medicine	Natalie Hernandez - Green, PhD, MPH	TBD
Tawhyah Yisrael-Holmes	Morgan State University	Mackessa L. Holt, DrPH, M.Div, MPH	The effects of long COVID in child and maternal health



Florida International University

MIAMI, FL

SCHOOL

Florida International University
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Okezi Otovo, PhD

STUDY RESEARCH

Community Doula and Midwifery Care as Models to Advance Equitable Healthcare Among Black Birthing Persons



Loma Linda University

LOMA LINDA, CA

SCHOOL

Loma Linda University
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Lisa Roberts, DrPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Sickle Cell: A Surveillance, Prevention, and Caring Pathway aims to increase reproductive planning and improve maternal health outcomes among people with SCD/T to decrease maternal health disparity.



Meharry Medical College

NASHVILLE, TN

School of Graduate Studies

SCHOOL

Meharry Medical College
School of Graduate Studies
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Leah Alexander PhD, MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Understanding the challenges of substance use disorder among pregnant and postpartum women



Meharry Medical College

NASHVILLE, TN

School of Applied Computational Science

SCHOOL

Meharry Medical College,
School of Applied Computational
Science
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Aize Cao, PhD

STUDY RESEARCH

Developing a comprehensive data analytics infrastructure model to support maternal healthcare for underserved women with substance use disorders.

Mercy University

DOBBS FERRY, NY



SCHOOL

Mercy University
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Francine Seruya, PhD, OTR/L,
FAOTA

STUDY RESEARCH

Evidence-based community
solutions to Hispanic mothers

Morehouse School of Medicine

ATLANTA, GA



SCHOOL

Morehouse School of Medicine
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Natalie Hernandez-Green, PhD,
MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Generate actionable evidence
about the multilayered
determinants of maternal health
conditions. Additional paternal
health outcomes and father
involvement in the maternal
health and child health domains
will be addressed.

A photograph of Morgan State University's main building, Holmes Hall, a large brick structure with a central portico and a clock tower. A banner in front of the building reads "MORGAN 150 YEARS OF MORGAN".

Morgan State University

BALTIMORE, MD

SCHOOL

Morgan State University
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Kesha Baptiste Roberts, PhD,
MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Understand causes of steady increase in maternal mortality and morbidity among Non-Hispanic Black women with a focus on doulas.

A photograph of Ohio State University's main building, a large red brick structure with a central clock tower and many arched windows. The trees in front have autumn-colored leaves.

Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, OH

SCHOOL

Ohio State University
MSI
In Partnership with
Howard University HBCU
Albizu University MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Seuli Bose Brill, MD

STUDY RESEARCH

Equitably reduce pregnancy related mortality and severe maternal morbidity in maternity care deserts and underserved communities through postpartum transition



Tennessee State University

NASHVILLE, TN

SCHOOL

Tennessee State University
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Wendelyn Inman, PhD

STUDY RESEARCH

Increase the number of health service providers across multiple disciplines and improve the preparation and training of HBCU graduates



Texas A&M University

COLLEGE STATION, TX

SCHOOL

Texas A&M University
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Robin Page, PhD, APRN, CNM,
FACNM, FAAN

STUDY RESEARCH

Develop nurse-led interventions to address maternal health disparities

A photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with many windows. In the foreground, there is a white sign that reads "TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY" and "EXCELLENCE IN ACHIEVEMENT". The sign is surrounded by colorful flowers and greenery. A paved walkway leads towards the building.

Texas Southern University

HOUSTON, TX

SCHOOL

Texas Southern University
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Omonike Olaleye, PhD, MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Enhanced, Quality, Universal, Inclusive and Transformative Healthcare Model to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes for Black Mothers

A photograph of a brick building with a prominent white clock tower. In the foreground, there are two banners hanging from a pole. The banners feature the Tougaloo College logo and the text "TOUGALOO COLLEGE 1869" and "Where History Meets the Future".

Tougaloo College

JACKSON, MS

SCHOOL

Tougaloo College
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Arletha Howard, DrPH, MSN, RN

STUDY RESEARCH

Identification of birthing person's healthcare needs using Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data



Tuskegee University

TUSKEGEE, AL

SCHOOL

Tuskegee University
HBCU

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Crystal James, JD, MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Maternal health equity research in Macon, Bullock, and Barbour partner communities.



University of Hawaii

HONOLULU, HI

SCHOOL

University of Hawaii
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Mary Tschann, PhD, MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Develop perinatal medical home model based on strengths and values of Native Hawaiian community.

A photograph of the University of Texas at Arlington. In the foreground, a large stone sign reads "THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON". Behind it is a tall, brick tower with a large window featuring a star. The sky is blue and there are green trees in the background.

University of Texas Arlington

ARLINGTON, TX

SCHOOL

University of Texas Arlington
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Kyrah K. Brown, PhD

STUDY RESEARCH

Complex system approaches to reducing the impact of cardiovascular severe maternal morbidity (CSMM) on non-Hispanic Black women

A photograph of the University of Texas at Rio Grande. The image shows a large, multi-story brick building with many windows. In the foreground, there are palm trees and a banner that says "WE PLAY FOR TV". The sky is blue with some clouds.

University of Texas at Rio Grande

EDINBURG, TX

SCHOOL

University of Texas at Rio Grande
MSI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Candace Robledo, PhD, MPH

STUDY RESEARCH

Effectiveness of peer-led integrated behavioral health informed interventions in addressing disparities in maternal and reproductive health among Hispanic women

Project Locations

ALABAMA

Tuskegee

CALIFORNIA

Loma Linda

FLORIDA

Miami

GEORGIA

Atlanta

HAWAII

Honolulu

MARYLAND

Baltimore

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson

NEW YORK

Dobbs Ferry

OHIO

Columbus

• **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

• **PUERTO RICO**

San Juan

TENNESSEE

Nashville

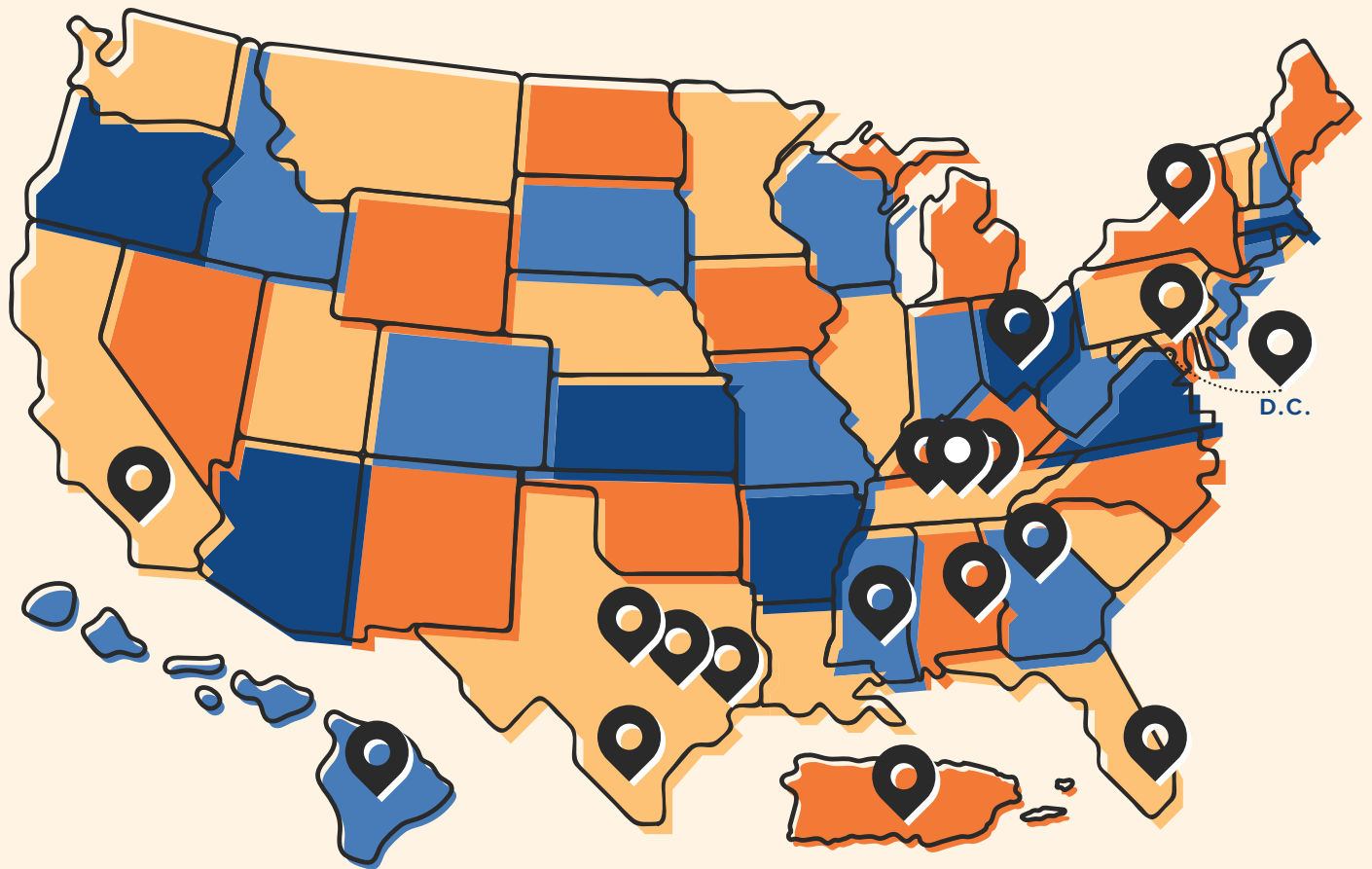
TEXAS

Arlington

College Station

Edinburg

Houston



Maternal Health
Research Collaborative
FOR MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS