



Maternal Health Research Collaborative

FOR MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS

**HRSA 23 - 113 MATERNAL
HEALTH EQUITY
COORDINATING CENTER**

DATE: March 17, 2024
TIME: 1:00pm-4:50pm CST

 York and Clark Room
SOPHE Conference
Hybrid Meeting



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

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SOPHE Conference Hybrid Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME

Dr. Yvonne Bronner, PI

1:00pm - 1:15pm

HRSA PRESENTATION

Rui Li, PhD

Evva Assing-Murray, PhD

Maura Maloney, PhD

- Discussion of Bylaws
- Adoption of Bylaws
- Election of Steering Committee Officers

1:15pm - 2:45pm

BREAK

2:45pm - 3:00pm

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Yvonne Bronner, PI

- Discussion of Capacity Building Elements of Research Center Checklist
- Discussion of Research Center Need Assessment
- Discussion of Learning Community
- Discussion of Strategic Planning

3:00pm - 4:30pm

ACTION ITEMS

- Discussion of Baltimore Strategic
- Committee Meeting, June 5-7

4:30pm - 4:45pm

ADJOURNMENT

4:50pm



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 Holmes Hall, a large brick building with a central portico and a clock tower. A banner in the foreground reads "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 Old Ohio Statehouse, a large red brick building with a central clock tower and many arched windows.

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, likely a university building. In the foreground, there is a white sign with the university's name and motto.

Texas Southern University

HOUSTON, TX

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
EXCELLENCE IN ACHIEVEMENT

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 banners for Tougaloo College.

Tougaloo College

JACKSON, MS

TOUGALOO
COLLEGE
1869
Where History
Meets the Future

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 clock face and a star. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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 building is a large, multi-story brick structure with many windows. In the foreground, there are palm trees and a sign that says "WE PLAY FOR TV".

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

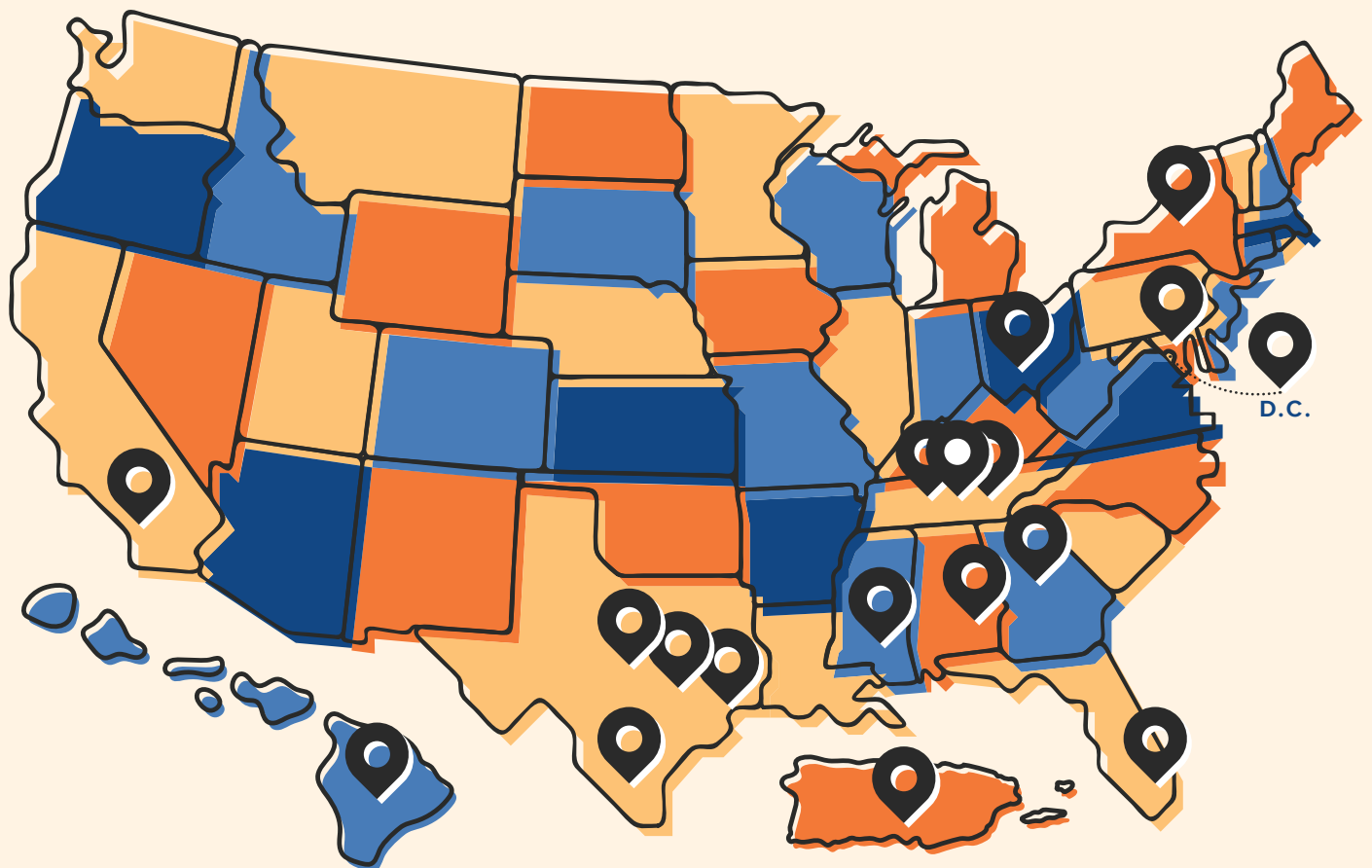
TEXAS

Arlington

College Station

Edinburg

Houston



Maternal Health
Research Collaborative
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