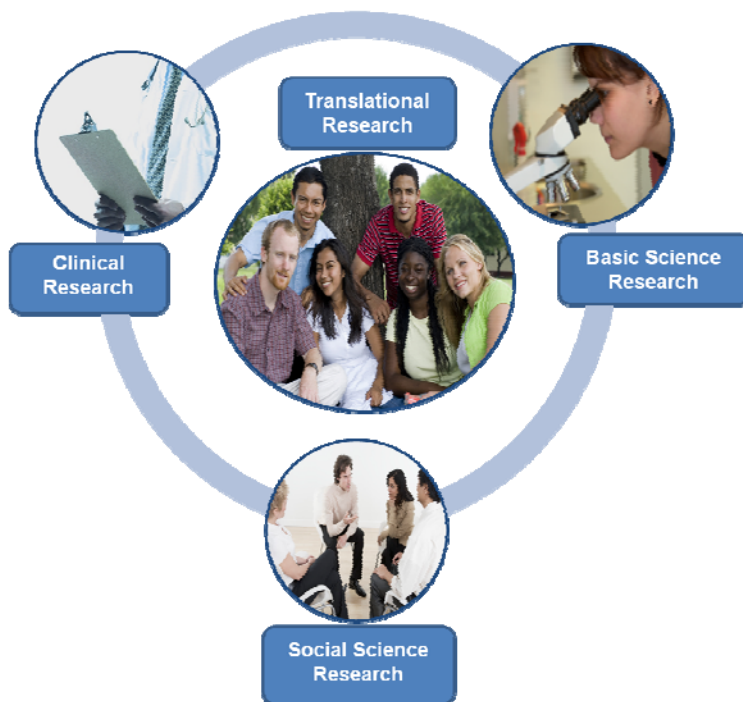


Being Translational: What does Translational Research Really Mean?



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Center Who's Who

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There is much talk these days in the academic world about “translational” research. The intent of this discussion is to enhance the focus of research initiatives in such a way as to provide maximum impact on those communities that would receive the greatest benefit from this research. For example, the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) was a highly successful research study that showed that modest amounts of weight loss through diet and exercise had a significant impact on prevention diabetes in high-risk populations. However, the rigors of the intervention program that was used for the study is not easily translatable to the general population, particularly persons with lower financial means. Researchers

are now looking at ways to modify the DPP intervention to make it more accessible.

Translational research requires not only that academic researchers not work in “silos” but in a collaborative fashion, but also that researchers are communicating and collaborating with the community to assist in addressing those needs that are most pressing. This has become a major emphasis of the National Institutes of Health, the largest federal funding agency of health research in the US.

But what does it mean to “be” translational? It means that everything you do has as its focal point serving those with the greatest needs. It means opening doors of communication and collaboration for research, outreach and

education. It means creating opportunities through which researchers are well trained in many aspects of the work that needs to be done to achieve health equity. It means being an advocate in those places where change is most likely to occur and most likely to have the biggest impact.

We at the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity strive to be translational in the work that we do. Our program areas, Research, Community Outreach and Faculty and Student Development, are well positioned to provide and cultivate the resources to achieve this goal. We look forward to partnering with you as we journey together on the road to health equity.

Director's Note

Greetings from the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity!

We are excited to partner with you to achieve the goal of health equity for everyone. It has been a very active past few months at the Center. In this issue of "Hope Lives," we will update you on the status of the NIH-funded DASH translation project, and tell you about a great new project funded by the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund to develop a network of lay health advisors in Hispanic churches in western North Carolina. We also have several grants currently being reviewed, including grants submitted under the NIH Challenge

Grant mechanism that was established using federal stimulus funds.

We had a very engaging strategic planning process in February facilitated by National Board member Dr. Addie Perkins-Williamson. From these meetings and subsequent discussions with Center affiliates, we have developed our guiding principles for the next three years. This effort was timely in that the Medical Center is also going through a strategic planning process under the direction of our new CEO, Dr. John McConnell, so we will ensure that we align our goals with those of the Medical Center. You should hear more in the coming

months.

You will also read in this issue about our involvement in several community outreach activities, including the Health Equity Day in Winston-Salem on April 28th, sponsored by the Forsyth County Health Equity Action Team. We are also fortunate to have three minority medical students working with us this summer on health equity research projects under the direction of Center affiliates Drs. John Stewart and Alain Bertoni.

Thank you for your support of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity. We look forward to working with you.



Dr. Ronny Bell

Coming together
is a beginning,
Keeping together
is progress,
Working together
is success.

~Henry Ford

Upcoming Events

2009 Disparities Conference. *Health Equity: Through the Cancer Lens.* July 28-29, 2009. Las Vegas, NV. Sponsor: The Office of Health Disparities of the American Cancer Society.

2009 National Indian Behavioral Health Conference. *Honoring Our Traditions While Embracing Change.* August 4-7, 2009. St. Paul, MN. Sponsor: Indian Health Service.

The National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media. August 11-13, 2009. Atlanta, GA. Sponsors: Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration, Nat. Cancer Institute and National Public Health Information Coalition.

A Research to Practice Symposium: Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging. September 15-16, 2009. Chapel Hill, NC. Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

National Conference to End Health Disparities II. *Faces of a Healthy Future.* November 3-6, 2009. Winston-Salem, NC. Sponsors: Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

Society for Public Health Education 60th Annual Meeting. *An Invitation to Innovation.* November 5-7, 2009. Philadelphia, PA. Sponsor: SOPHE

137th Annual American Public Health Association Meeting & Expo. *Water and Public Health: the 21st Century Challenge.* November 7-11, 2009. Philadelphia, PA. Sponsor: APHA

2009 Multicultural Institute Conference. *Forging New Pathways for Diversity and Inclusion: Building Skills for Collaboration and Dialogue.* November 18-21, 2009. Arlington, VA. Sponsor: National Multicultural Institute.

15th Annual Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference. *Blueprints for Change.* December 9-11, 2009. Memphis, TN. Sponsor: National Rural Health Association.

Annual UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health Minority Health Conference. February 26, 2010. Chapel Hill, NC. Sponsor: UNC School of Public Health

Research Update

The MACHE is involved in several exciting research projects. **Translating Dietary Trials into the Community** (Bertoni, co-PI; Quandt, co-I), funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), has completed one year of funding. We have made strides toward understanding the food resources available to people living in East Winston-Salem by conducting surveys at area groceries and restaurants, and conducted focus groups to understand the perceptions that residents have of those resources. Over the next few months, we will be preparing to hold a trial in which we will determine whether using adapted Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) materials will encourage people with elevated blood

pressure to eat more fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy products in an effort to lower their blood pressure. **The People’s Clinic: A Minority Health Education Collaborative** (Bell, PI; Hunter, Co-I), funded by the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation, concluded in February 2009 with the completion of focus groups in the African American and American Indian communities. Groups indicated that programming activities are acceptable, useful, and appropriate and provided ideas for future efforts. The team created pamphlets and booklets to present health education material developed during the course of the project, and those materials will be distributed widely. The results of the Latino arm of the project, originally dubbed the **Hispanic Health Media Project** (Calles,

PI), was published earlier this year in the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health; the team is continuing some activities beyond the original project period. The study team still presents weekly newspaper and radio programming and we are considering ideas for project expansion. **Latino Lay Health Advisors: A Coalition Initiative** (Calles, PI; Hunter, Co-I), funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, is gearing up to begin in July 2009. This project, a partnership with the Pastoral Care department, will utilize a lay health advisor (LHA) model of health education surrounding metabolic syndrome in the Latino community via church partners. The project will entail the creation of a unique educational curriculum, followed by a three-month training program for the

LHA candidates. The LHAs will then create educational courses for peers in their churches. There are also numerous projects being conducted by MACHE affiliated faculty relevant to the goals of the Center, including projects led by Drs. Arcury, Arnold, Bell, Bowden, Burke, Carr, Freedman, Rhodes, Stewart and Quandt, in the areas of agricultural worker health, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. Look for highlights about some of these projects in future newsletters. If you have ideas for research projects you would like to suggest the MACHE consider pursuing, contact the center by phone (336 713-7600), or email (wgilbert@wfubmc.edu).

Affiliated Faculty Research

Dr. Barry Freedman, MACHE Affiliate and Section Chief, Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, was awarded an RO1 entitled “Natural History of MYH9-associated Nephropathy” from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders. This study is a longitudinal follow up study in African Americans to test for genetic risks for kidney disease. Environmental factors that are risks for kidney disease will also be assessed. This is a 5 year grant that began July 1, 2009 and will conclude June 30, 2014.

Dr. David Mount, MACHE Affiliate and Director of Community Partnerships, received a \$70,000 grant from the Piedmont Triad Partnership to conduct critical analysis, evaluation and assessment of contributing factors to the continuous shortage of minority and educationally disadvantaged college students retained and matriculating through graduate level educational health professions in the Piedmont Triad region. The project is part of the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) initiative of the US Department of Labor. The grant runs from May 2009 to March 2010.

Student Update

Bryant Cameron Webb, WFUSM Class of 2010, is a 2008 recipient (awarded January 2009) of the American Association of Medical Colleges–Herbert Nickens Award.



This award is given to outstanding students entering their third year of medical school who have shown leadership in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health

care and have demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal and health care needs of minorities in the US. Among Cameron’s many programs at WFUSM are Project TEACH, a teen mentorship program with a focus on educating high school students on diseases that disparately affect minorities, and a student run free clinic, “DEAC” or Delivering Equal Access to Care. Cameron has also been an active member of the National SNMA Health Policy and Legislative Affairs committee, where he works on several projects to increase medical students interest in health policy and advocacy.

Community Partnerships

The MACHE Community Partnerships (CP) Initiative has been very busy so far in 2009. In February CP co-sponsored an event with Triad Cultural Arts entitled "Giants and Stars: Salute to the Negro Baseball League" at which approximately 300 people participated. Dr. Mount, Community Partnerships program director, also spoke at this

event. CP co-sponsored a speaking engagement in March with University of North Carolina and Duke University Global Health Department, School of Public Policy and School of Public Health with the Lost Boys and Sudan Refugees, who spoke about their experiences. In April 2009 Community Partnerships participated in the "Black

Male Summit", which focused on empowering young Black men for academic, personal, and professional success. Along with the Forsyth County Department of Public Health, the Winston-Salem State University Health Disparity Center of Excellence and the Healthy Community Coalition, the MACHE co-sponsored the 1st Annual

Winston-Salem Health Equity Day Event. This event served to increase awareness and visibility of health equity events in Forsyth County. Also in April 2009, Community Partnerships sponsored a dinner event with the directors of Healthcare Access, which recognized the founders of this organization.

Development Update

Neiman Marcus, Charlotte, Southpark Mall hosts "Cocktails & Conversation" Event for Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity

On July 16th, 2009 a "Cocktails and Conversations" event was held at Neiman Marcus at the Southpark Mall in Charlotte. The Health Equity reception event raised awareness about the importance of health equity, and provided an opportunity to raise money for research and promote partnerships for the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity. Dr. Angelou, Dr. John McConnell, CEO of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, along with a group health experts

provided a brief presentation and reminded the audience of the challenges we face in dealing with health equities.



Dr. Angelou wants to use her stature as an entertainer, activist and humanitarian to call attention to the issues of health equity. Using the stage for this platform, we will unite people through the arts while we inform them of the important work to be done and raise funds to do so. Drs. Angelou

and McConnell led a discussion involving the importance and next steps for the Maya Angelou Center and this health equity movement.



Several WFUSM faculty were featured at this event and provided the guests with a brief overview of their research interests and passion. They were: Drs. Ronny Bell, Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity;

William Blackstock, Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology, Carlos Ferrario, Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology and President and CEO of the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control; William Ntim, Assistant Professor of Cardiology; Amy McMichael, Associate Professor of Dermatology; and Gretchen Brenes, Associate Professor of Psychiatry.



Faculty & Staff Update

New Affiliates

MACHE would like to welcome our newest affiliate: **Gail Marion, PA-C, PhD**, Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine.

Congratulations

Dr. Barry Freedman, MACHE Affiliate, recently received two awards: The WFUSM 2009 - Established Clinical Investigator Award

and *The Business Journal* Health Care Heroes Award for Innovation in Medicine, June 25, 2009.

Dr. Ronny Bell, MACHE Director, has been selected as a founding member of the North Carolina American Indian Health Board. The Board, part of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, has the purpose of becoming a

state recognized authoritative source on Indian health and serve as an advocate for North Carolina Indian communities.

Dr. David Mount, MACHE Community Partnerships program director, was one of 20 individuals in the nation chosen to participate in the first State Health Policy Institute (SHPI). The SHPI is a new initiative from the

Society for Public Health Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The training from the institute allows the participants to educate their state legislators and other key stakeholders about disease prevention and control.



Spotlight on...

John H. Stewart, IV, MD, FACS



Dr. John Stewart, MACHE Affiliate, graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1991 with a degree in zoology and went on to earn his medical degree from Howard University in 1995. Prior to completing his residency in general surgery at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in

2004, Dr. Stewart completed fellowships in surgical oncology, tumor immunology and molecular oncology at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Stewart's clinical interests are in general surgical oncology with a focus on melanoma as well as breast, gastrointestinal, and peritoneal surface malignancies. Dr. Stewart is the founding director of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine Tumor Immunotherapy Program. In addition, he directs the surgical oncology research laboratory here at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. The focus of this laboratory is on the induction

of cell death in gastrointestinal malignancies. At present, Dr. Stewart's research efforts on cancer-killing viruses are funded by both the National Cancer Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. As a member of the Wake Forest University Nanomedicine Group, Dr. Stewart's research also involves the use of nanoparticles to treat metastatic colon cancer cells. Dr. Stewart has established a national profile as a leader in education, scientific research, and the delivery of cancer care to underserved populations. As such, he serves on national advisory committees for the

American Association of Medical Colleges and a grant review committee for the National Cancer Institute. He also serves as the colorectal cancer task force leader for the surgical section of the Cancer and Lymphoma Group B. Dr. Stewart has published his research in several peer-reviewed journals, including Cancer, the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, the Journal of Immunotherapy, Annals of Surgical Oncology, the Journal of Surgical Research, American Journal of Surgery and Transplantation.

From the Student National Medical Association



Throughout the past 12 months, the WFUSM SNMA chapter has remained true to its roots in community service. We have continued to provide free glaucoma screenings through our Student Sight Savers program, students with Sickle Cell Disease Christmas gifts and cheer from our own SNMA Santa Claus at the annual Christmas party sponsored by the Sickle Cell Association of the Piedmont.

Our 2nd Annual Premedical Student Conference gained momentum this past year with students from schools along the east coast interested in careers in medicine who participated in workshops focusing on study skills, successful application to medical school, and mock interviews. Our 16th Annual Senior Banquet featured keynote speaker Dr. Haywood Brown, WFUSM alumnus and nationally recognized maternal-fetal medicine specialist, who honored our minority medical student graduates of 2009 and emphasized their role in continuing their tradition of

service to SNMA. In April, the new Executive Board of SNMA was welcomed; we look forward to maintaining our core of community service, growing our membership base, and strengthening our students' professional development by focusing on relationships with faculty and community mentors as well as other graduate organizations with similar objectives. We look forward to an action-packed fall and spring semester, continuing the admirable legacy of our predecessors and building on their efforts for an exciting new year.

2009-10 WFUSM Officers

- President:** Miiko Richardson Rowley
- Vice President:** Cortney Wilson
- Secretary:** Melanie Robinson
- Treasurer:** Damilola Akinnifesi
- MAPS/Post-Bac Liaison:** Michelle Long
- Pre-medical Student Conference Chair:** Whitney Feltus
- Fundraising Chair:** Shasta Henderson
- Social Chair:** Kyle Vincent
- Volunteer Chair:** Kevin Cronin
- Banquet Chair:** Cheryl Onwuchuruba
- Webmaster:** Jasmine Smith

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Please send any comments, suggestions, or mailing address changes

<http://www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth/>

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Hope Lives!

