A partnership between SUNY Downstate, Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health and the Office of Brooklyn Borough President

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Collaborating Institutions
Kings County Hospital Center
Brookdale Hospital Medical Center
Staten Island University Hospital
Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center
Lang Island University, Brooklyn Campus
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Sciences, CCNY
Medgar Evers College, CUNY

FOCUS AREAS
Cardiovascular disease
Obesity
Sleep apnea
Dyslipidemia
Diabetes
HIV
Hypertension
Cancer

PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Claude Lenfant, MD; Formerly the Director of the NHLBI, now serves as president of the World Hypertension League

Charles Francis, MD; President Emeritus, R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles

Francesco Gany, MD, MS; Director of the Cancer and Communication Project and Director of the Center for Immigrant Health at the New York University School of Medicine

Marcia Bayne-Smith, PhD; Chair of the Board of Directors of Caribbean Women’s Health Association and faculty of Queens College, CUNY

Donald Wilson, MD; Dean Emeritus of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and a past chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Senior Vice President for Health Science, Howard University

BBHC Directors
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Yvonne Graham, MPH; Deputy Borough President, Office of the Brooklyn Borough President

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Susana Morales, MD; Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Multicultural and Minority Health, Weill Medical College of Cornell University

William Solomon, MD; Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, SUNY Downstate Medical Center—Director of the Brooklyn Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program

Tracey E. Wilson, Ph.D.; Associate Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, SUNY Downstate Medical Center

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www.downstate.edu/healthdisparities
The overall mission of the Center is to reduce health disparities among minorities and new immigrants in Brooklyn, NY through clinical and community based research, education, outreach, and training.

**MISSION**
The Center is envisioned as a nationally recognized leader in the elimination of health disparities focused on minorities and immigrant populations. Through the development of community partnerships, the Center will work collaboratively to conduct research, develop interventions, provide training, inform policy decisions, and exchange information that will increase all partners’ capacity to eliminate existing health disparities.

**VISION**
The Center is focused on supporting studies assessing the reasons why socio-economically disadvantaged and minority populations in Brooklyn suffer with higher risks of various diseases. Ideas for studies came largely from existing programs at the Center, which have been implemented solely to respond to patient needs, but have not been sufficiently developed to warrant large-scale, population-based studies.

**HISTORY AND PARTNERSHIP**
A study commissioned in 2003 by the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz, found that given the racial, ethnic, socio-economic and health status of Brooklyn’s population, there is a significant need for the creation of a center that addresses health disparities. The report further recommended that SUNY Downstate Medical Center be the site for a Health Disparities Center, given the expertise, academic excellence and resources existing at Downstate. As the only academic health center in Brooklyn, Downstate is especially well-equipped to serve as the home for a center to address health disparities issues in this community.

The SUNY Downstate Medical Center, in collaboration with the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health and the Office of Borough President created the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center. Working with the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, initial funding was obtained from the United Hospital Fund and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. In 2004, the partners successfully secured a three year NIH planning grant (Project EXPORT: Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training) Subsequent funding was obtained to establish the Summer Institute Program to Increase Diversity (SIPID) in Cardiovascular Health Disparities Research.

**SUMMER INSTITUTE PROGRAM TO INCREASE DIVERSITY (SIPID)**
Under the training CORE, we have instituted the Summer Institute Program to Increase Diversity (SIPID). SIPID is an NIH-sponsosred program that provides intensive didactic and mentored research training in cardiovascular health disparities research. The main goal of this multidisciplinary research training program is to inspire minority trainees to conduct research in cardiovascular health disparities employing techniques at the forefront of the field. The desired outcome is to improve the recruitment and retention of junior faculty in the study of heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders. The program helps trainees develop skills needed in order to develop independent research interests and apply for independent research grants. The program recruits individuals from disabled and underrepresented minority groups with a terminal degree (e.g., MD, PhD, EdD).

**PARTNERS TO DATE**
Participating Community-Based Organizations
American Cancer Society
Ameriican Family Support Center
Brooklyn Perinatal Network
Caribbean Women’s Health Association
Diaspora Community Services
Flatbush Haitian Center
Greater Southern Brooklyn Health Coalition
Hispanic Centers Council
Korean Community Services Public Health Program
Make the Road by Walking

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- Staten Island University Hospital
- Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center
- Lang Island University, Brooklyn Campus
- Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Sciences, CUNY
- Medgar Evers College, CUNY

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