

8th ANNUAL TRANSPORT SYMPOSIUM

Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Building Healthier Communities Together

Sponsored by:



Welcome to the 8th Annual TRANSPORT Symposium

Good morning,

On behalf of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and our esteemed community partners, it is our pleasure to welcome each of you to the 8th Annual TRANSPORT Symposium. Today, we gather under the theme “Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Building Healthier Communities Together,” a call to action that resonates deeply within our communities.

As we open this symposium, we are driven by a shared commitment to tackle three of the most pressing challenges faced by our community—mental health, housing, and food insecurity. These areas stand out as critical barriers to health equity and well-being in our neighborhoods.

Our agenda today is structured to not only discuss these critical issues but to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas and cultivate actionable strategies that will lead to tangible improvements in the lives of our community members. We are here to bridge gaps, to learn from each other, and to ignite a collaborative effort that spans disciplines, sectors, and perspectives.

The work we embark on today is vital. It demands our best thinking, our most innovative approaches, and our sincerest cooperation. By focusing our efforts on mental health, ensuring stable and affordable housing, and addressing the scourge of food insecurity, we are taking essential steps toward nurturing a healthier, more resilient Brooklyn.

Let us use today not just as a forum for discussion, but as a platform for action. Together, let's explore the challenges, highlight effective strategies, uncover gaps, and most importantly, forge actionable solutions through collaboration.

Thank you for your commitment to building healthier communities. Your participation today is not just appreciated; it is foundational to the success of our collective endeavors.

Let's make this a productive and transformative day!

**Best,
The TRANSPORT Principal Investigators**

TRANSPORT Symposium Planning Committee

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Wayne Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP

*President, SUNY Downstate Health
Sciences University*

Moro Salifu, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP

*Professor & Chair, Department of Medicine
Director, Brooklyn Health Disparities Center
Downstate Health Sciences University*

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS

*Associate Vice President, Office For Institutional
Equity
Associate Dean, Office of Diversity Education and
Research
Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine
Downstate Health Sciences University*

W. Marcus Lambert, PhD

*Associate Vice President for Research Strategy
and Operations
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics
School of Public Health
Downstate Health Sciences University*

BROOKLYN HEALTH DISPARITIES CENTER (BHDC) MEMBERS

Pamela D. Straker, PhD

*Research Assistant Professor
BHDC Director of Operations
Department of Medicine/College of Medicine
Downstate Health Sciences University*

Lakia Maxwell, MSCH

*Research Education Coordinator
Project Staff Assistant
Brooklyn Health Disparities Center (BHDC)
Downstate Health Sciences University*

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEMBERS

Marlene Camacho-Rivera, ScD, MS, MPH

*Assistant Dean for Student Engagement
and Success
Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences
Downstate Health Sciences University*

Aimee Afable, PhD, MPH

*Associate Dean for Community Engagement
Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences
Downstate Health Sciences University*

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Edeline Mitton, MEd, MPH

*Director of Continuing Medical Education
Secretary, Downstate Assembly of Faculty &
Professional Staff
Downstate Health Sciences University*

8:30 – 9:00AM | BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:15AM | PROGRAM OPENING AND INTRODUCTION OF TRANSPORT PIS

MODERATOR

Pamela Straker, PhD

*Research Assistant Professor, TRANSPORT
Director of Operations, Brooklyn Health Disparities Center*

SPEAKERS

Wayne Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP

*President, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
TRANSPORT Principal Investigator*

Alishia Goodridge, MLS, MBA

Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Relations, Downstate Health Sciences University

Kimberly Council, MS

Deputy Brooklyn Borough President

9:15 – 9:35AM | OPENING REMARKS UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

SPEAKER

Marlene Camacho-Rivera, MPH, SC.D

*Assistant Dean, Office of Student Affairs
Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences*

9:35AM – 10:05AM | CBO INTRODUCTIONS

MODERATOR

Faven Araya, MPH, DrPH(c)

Director of Community Engagement and Health Equity Research, Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health

10:05 – 10:15AM | EXPLANATION OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND FACILITATOR ROLES

MODERATOR

Lakia Maxwell, MSCH

Program Manager and Project Administrative Officer, TRANSPORT

10:15 – 10:30AM | BREAK AND TRANSITION TO CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30AM – 12:00PM | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: FOCUSED DISCUSSIONS ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Breakout Sessions Include:

- **Housing**

Facilitator: Grace Ruiz, CAMBA

- **Food Insecurity**

Facilitator: Dorella Walters, MPA, Gods Love We Deliver

- **Mental Health**

Facilitator: Melissa Elliot, LCSW-R, CPC, SIFI, AGAPE Family Therapy & Coaching

Co-Leaders: Tolulope Atolagbe, Hannah Stevenson, Seema Chittalae, Rose Calixte, PhD, PStat®; Alaina Brown, Than Han, Valerie Chateau, Cordero McCall, MBA, MPH; Elka Jacobson Dickman, MD; Kadeen Waldron

12:00 – 12:45PM | LUNCH BREAK

12:45 – 1:35PM | REPORT BACK: BREAKOUT SESSION SUMMARIES

- **Housing**

Facilitator: Grace Ruiz

- **Food Insecurity**

Facilitator: Dorella Walters, MPA

- **Mental Health**

Facilitator: Melissa Elliot, LCSW-R, CPC, SIFI

1:35 – 2:00PM | COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP: ACTION STEPS FOR ADDRESSING SDOH

2:00 – 2:15PM | CLOSING REMARKS AND CALL TO ACTION

MODERATOR

Moro Salifu, MD, MBA, MPH, MACP

Chair, Department of Medicine

Tenured Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology

2:15 – 3:00PM | ADJOURN/NETWORKING

Symposium Program Committee and Faculty

(ALPHABETICAL LISTING BY LAST NAME)



Aimee Afable, PhD, MPH is Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences, SUNY Downstate School of Public Health. She received her B.A. with Honors in International Relations from Brown University (1995). She received her M.P.H. and Ph.D. in public health from Tulane University (2003). Following her doctoral studies, Dr. Afable was a Post-Doctoral Scholar at the Institute for Health Policy Studies (2005–2007), University of California, San Francisco. For over 14 years, Dr. Afable’s research has critically examined conceptual frameworks used to understand health disparities and health inequities. Her work has documented the declining health advantage with increasing stay among US immigrants and has questioned the validity of the Healthy Immigrant Paradox. More recently, she is studying the causal role of physiologic stress response in race/ethnic disparities in poor metabolic and perinatal outcomes. Dr. Afable is also dedicated to serving Downstate and our local Brooklyn community. She is an investigator member of the Research Core of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center. She is a board member of Live Light Live Right, the only tertiary-care childhood obesity program serving Brooklyn. She is an evaluation consultant to Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI), a youth violence intervention program in Central Brooklyn.



Faven Araya, MPH, DrPH currently serves as the Director of Community Engagement and Health Equity Research at the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health where she manages the Institute’s community engagement and research initiatives on mental health, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS and the social determinants of health (SDOH) among others. She also leads Communities Together for Health Equity (CTHE), a city network of over 70 community-based organizations working to address the SDOH by bridging gaps between the community and the healthcare system. Through strategic partnerships, she collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, sectors and institutions to ensure equitable strategies and solutions that leverage community experience and expertise are integrated into research, health care planning, and inform policies and practices. She received her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Public Health at the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.



Tolulope Atolagbe is a dedicated public health professional with a background in epidemiology, health science education, and community health. With experience in research, teaching, and program development, Tolu is passionate about addressing

health disparities. She has led youth programs, organized national summits, and integrated innovative teaching strategies into their courses. Outside of work, Tolu enjoys photography, skating, reading, and exploring NYC. Her leadership experience, research acumen, and commitment to health equity make her a dynamic force in public health and education.



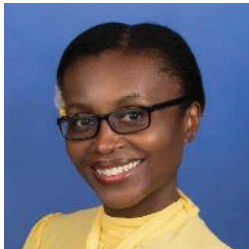
Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MSc is the Associate Dean for the Office of Diversity Education and Research at Downstate. She is a physician, trained clinical epidemiologist, and health equity researcher. Dr. Boutin-Foster's research focuses on elucidating mechanisms by which psychosocial determinants such as social support, stress, and depressive symptoms influence health behaviors and health outcomes in patients with cardiometabolic conditions. She leads investigator-initiated research projects addressing chronic disease management in health disparities populations. Mentorship and research development of trainees from groups that are underrepresented in biomedical science are central to her academic career. She was PI and Director of an NIMHD P60 Center for Disparities Research and Community Engagement (CEDREC). A major aspect of the P60 was training diverse junior investigators in health disparities research. She served as co-director of an AHRQ-funded T32 Fellowship Program in Health Services Research and as PI on an NHLBI T32 in Translational Cardiovascular Disease Research. Currently, as an MPI on two NIMHD \$10 million endowment grants, Translational Program Of

health disparities Research Training (TRANSPORT and TRANSPORT II), Dr. Boutin-Foster oversees the implementation and evaluation of several multitiered diversity research training programs from high school to junior faculty. She is MPI on the NIMHD funded R25 program Clinical Research Scholars Training Program (CREST) along with Dr. Marlene Camacho-Rivera and PI of HRSA Center of Excellence in Diversity in Medical Education grant. These grants have allowed me to successfully implement health equity focused research training programs that help to launch the research careers of junior investigators who are underrepresented in biomedical and public health research. As the Associate Dean, she leverages administrative and educational support to ensure the success of research trainees and junior faculty. She brings a breadth of experience in conducting independently funded health disparities research, in securing and managing large NIH grants, in disseminating research in peer-reviewed publications, and in leading educational research programs. Dr. Boutin-Foster has a strong record of supporting and mentoring junior investigators as they transition to independent research careers. Dr. Boutin-Foster graduated from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine and trained at New York Presbyterian hospital-Cornell in internal medicine.



Alaina Brown recently graduated from Binghamton University with a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Neuroscience while following the pre-med track. She has engaged in multiple research programs at Downstate Medical Center, including SPRINTER and Exploring Health Careers. In her

most recent experience with SPRINTER, she spent six weeks investigating how surgical outcomes differ between safety-net and non-safety-net hospitals, working collaboratively with a research team. Before her time at Downstate Medical Center, Alaina conducted public health research through Binghamton University's Freshman Research Immersion (FRI) program, examining factors that influenced COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. In addition, Alaina worked as a peer mentor in the FRI program. She guided new students through the research process, helping them develop their own projects and deliverables. With a strong passion for public health research, medicine, and science communication, Alaina looks forward to furthering her impact in these areas.



Rose Calixte, PhD, PStat® is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She holds a doctoral degree in Statistics from Stony Brook University and PStat® Accreditation from the American Statistical Association. Dr. Calixte has extensive experience as lead biostatistician on multiple projects over the years, resulting in publications in many high impact journals. In her role as lead biostatistician, she handled all data aspect of these studies including data management, data quality, data cleaning, data analysis, and write-up of statistical result. Dr. Calixte also provides consultation on appropriate study design, sample size consideration, power calculations, and statistical analysis plan. Dr. Calixte's main research interest is in child health outcomes. Particularly, she is interested in factors that are associated with health care utilization in children

and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and barriers to access to care in CYSHCN. Her goal is to develop tools to identify CYSHCN at risk of unmet medical and social needs.



Marlene Camacho Rivera, ScD, MS, MPH

is Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Success and Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at SUNY Downstate's School of Public Health. She is a graduate of the TRANSPORT Post-Doctoral Fellow Scholar Program. A social and chronic disease epidemiologist by training, Dr. Camacho-Rivera's research focuses on the role of social, cultural, and environmental factors in explaining racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in chronic disease outcomes and chronic disease self-management in the areas of cancer, asthma, and cardiovascular diseases. Her work also explores patterns of and explanations for within group heterogeneity in chronic diseases among racial/ethnic groups, particularly Latinos, as well as community-based approaches to improving chronic disease disparities. Previously, she has served as site PI of the NCI funded Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick Cancer Health Impact Program, a collaborative project between MSKCC and CCNY examining cancer related health information seeking behaviors, as well as knowledge and attitudes towards cancer screening among Brooklyn residents. She has also served as a PI of a P20 pilot project examining the narrative experiences of South Asian head and neck cancer survivors, as part of the CCNY/MSKCC Translational Research Education and Training to Eliminate Tobacco Disparities (TREND) program. She has also served as an investigator and

faculty mentor within the CCNY/MSK Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE U54) program, as well as the health disparities cluster of the Research Center in Minority Institutions (RCMI U54) at the City College of New York. Dr. Camacho-Rivera received her bachelor's degree in biology and Society from Cornell University and her doctoral degree in Social Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, as a Harvard Presidential Scholar. She has additional training in maternal and child health, health policy and management, and cancer epidemiology.

As a junior faculty member, she has received numerous training fellowships and awards through NHLBI, the National Hispanic Health Foundation and PCORI, and currently serves as a fellow through the NIMHD TRANSPORT program. Collectively, Dr. Camacho-Rivera's translational research informs the development, implementation, and evaluation of patient-centered approaches to improving chronic disease self-management among urban minority communities.



Valerie Chateau earned her Bachelor's in Health Science at Long Island University. There she grew an interest in biomedicine and public health. She was a 2-year intern at the Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island Area Health Education Center (BQLI-AHEC), where she broadened her understanding of healthcare complexities by engaging in interdisciplinary work and contributing to community-based initiatives in medically underserved areas throughout NYC. As a previous SPRINT Student at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, she researched the correlation of stress levels with educational attainment; shedding

light on the intricate relationship between social determinants and health outcomes. Her current TRACS study is focused on advancing health equity in clinical practice by implementing structural competencies and working with the Coalition to Eliminate Racism in Clinical Algorithm (CERCA). Valerie looks forward to enhancing her research capacity, contributing to scientific publications, and strengthening her foundation in health equity in public health and clinical settings.



Seema Chittalae, MD is currently working as a Clinical Research Associate in the department of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Health in Biostatistics. She is actively involved in bringing investigational clinical trials to Downstate and also in increasing the participation of African American patients in these trials to better understand the mechanism of drug effects in the AA population. She also mentors medical students, residents, and renal fellows and supports them with their research projects. Her goal is to support both academic and clinical research at Downstate.



Kim Council Deputy Borough President, Reverend, and fierce community advocate are all words you can use to describe Kim Council. All her life, Rev. Kim

Council has dedicated her career to the communities and people of Brooklyn, focused on finding ways to better lives and strengthen opportunities for all. As Deputy Borough President, she carries this work out on a borough-wide scale, working with faith-based and community leaders to find solutions for some of the biggest challenges facing our borough from housing to food insecurity and violence.

Brooklyn-born and -raised, Kim grew up in HUD-subsidized housing as the oldest of five children. Her family grew up working hard to provide—fighting evictions and food insecurity despite both her parents working full-time jobs.

While there wasn't much spare cash in the home, there was boundless love and support. And in Bed-Stuy, neighbors always had each other's backs.

Fast forward some years, Kim is known as many things – law librarian, assistant pastor, and a former executive no-profit leader. Guided by her faith, her work is extensive and always on the forefront of the issues pressing Brooklyn. As the executive director of the Berean Community and Family Life Center, she provided preventative health care, built affordable housing, and created youth development programs and violence prevention programs. As vice chair of the Local Development Corporation of East New York, Kim was vital in providing resources and support to small businesses. And while president of the East Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation, she spearheaded the construction of over one thousand units of affordable housing.

Now, as Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, Kim is a fearless community leader who has been continuously devoted to fighting for the best for Brooklyn communities across the borough. Leveraging on her expertise, within her first year at Borough Hall, she launched the administration's first roundtable on how faith-based organizations can champion affordable housing in Brooklyn, built momentum to

end gun violence boroughwide, and brought resources to Business Improvement Districts and merchant associations to help support local businesses.

On the day-to-day, she meets Brooklynites and local organizations and businesses across the borough while problem-solving how to bring resources to the table to our communities that have been long underrepresented. Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Rev. Kim Council is Brooklyn's own powerhouse of advocacy, wit, and hard work moving our borough forward.



Elka Jacobson Dickman, MD is the Associate Dean for Clinical Medicine at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University where she oversees the Core Clinical and Advanced Clinical Medicine years of the Integrated Pathways Curriculum. She works with the clerkship and other rotation directors to assure the highest educational quality and supportive learning environment for students. Dr. Jacobson-Dickman obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and her Medical Degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in Bronx, New York. After completing a Pediatrics residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Children's Hospital at Montefiore and a Pediatric Endocrinology fellowship at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, she joined both SUNY Downstate and Maimonides Medical Centers where she ultimately became the Pediatric Endocrinology Fellowship Program Director. At Maimonides, she also served as the hospital-wide Director of Faculty Development. While she cares for children with a

wide range of Endocrine Disorders, Dr. Jacobson-Dickman has a long-standing interest in Puberty and Reproductive Endocrinology; she has published research in these fields and is the co-director of our College of Medicine's first year Reproductive Endocrinology course. Dr. Jacobson-Dickman is dedicated to practicing compassionate patient and family centered clinical care and in implementing a medical school curriculum wherein professional reflective practices are emphasized.



Melissa D. Elliott, LCSW-R, CPC, SIFI is a dynamic and accomplished professional with deep roots in Brooklyn, raised by her Barbadian parents and their supportive village. She is a dedicated wife and proud mother to a charming 2-year-old son. Melissa wears many hats as an entrepreneur, not-for-profit leader, adjunct professor, clinical supervisor, certified professional coach, and psychotherapist. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Melissa holds a Master's degree in Social Work from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in African and Latino History from CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College. A strong advocate for community empowerment, she volunteers during tax season to provide free tax preparation services to the Brownsville community through her church. Her faith in God serves as the foundation for her purpose and guides her pursuits.

Melissa is the founder and owner of AGAPE Family Therapy & Coaching, a thriving group private practice. She also serves as a Board Director for the

Association of Nonprofit Specialists and teaches in the Social Work Department at NYU.

A solution-focused and passionate leader, Melissa's personal experiences as a Black Barbadian-American woman impacted by systemic racism have shaped her resilience and commitment to creating restorative environments that foster healing and stability for communities. She is driven to build spaces where individuals and families can recover from the pressures of racism and gain tools to navigate intersecting systems of oppression. Her leadership fosters partnerships with organizations to promote awareness, build relationships, and advocate for policy change, advancing equity and justice for all.



Marilyn Fraser, MD is the Chief Executive Officer at the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (AAIUH), a Research Associate Professor in both the Department of Medicine and the School of Public Health at the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and the co-Director of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center. Previously, as Deputy Director and Associate Director for Research & Training, she managed the Institute's community outreach and research programs.

Dr. Fraser, as co-leader of an investigative research team supported by several NIH and CDC grants, helped develop behavioral health intervention models and training curricula for AAIUH's award-winning Black Pearls and Different Faces of Health programs. The Institute's community outreach programs prepare hairstylists and barbers to educate their clients about various health topics, including breast, prostate and colorectal cancer,

cardiovascular disease, and HIV/AIDS risk reduction. She also served as the Co-PI in conducting the Institute's ACCESS project to increase access to health and social services for formerly incarcerated individuals in Brooklyn.

Guyanese-born Dr. Fraser is a graduate of the Spartan Health Sciences University School of Medicine in St. Lucia and did her medical training in the West Indies, Mexico, and the United States. Dr. Fraser has received numerous awards including the Health Award from the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, and the prestigious Fulbright Research Specialist award to develop and implement a climate change and public health internship program for secondary school students in Trinidad and Tobago. She was also the recipient of the Innovator Award from the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, the Community Award from the Nurses Association of the Counties of Long Island (NACLI), as well as an extraordinary woman of Downstate recognition. She was also nominated to serve on the nationally acclaimed Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA)'s Community Engagement Domain Task Force. Dr. Fraser was honored as a Power Woman in Brooklyn and received the special Health Award. She was also honored as the winner of the Crain's Heritage Healthcare Leadership Award and named one of Crain's Notable Women in Healthcare. Most recently, Dr. Fraser was honored as one of the CUNY School of Medicine's 2021 Strong Women in Medicine. Dr. Fraser regularly presents her work at scientific meetings, nationally and internationally, and is a co-author on several publications and a book chapter.

Dr. Fraser's deep interest in addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes in communities of color also allows her to serve as an expert advisory board member with the NYC Diabetes Prevention Project.



Alishia Goodridge, MBA is Assistant Vice President for Government and Community Relations at Downstate Health Sciences University. Ms. Goodridge serves as a key representative of Downstate, working hand in hand with state and local representatives to ensure that Downstate can provide both quality education and world-class healthcare to the Brooklyn community. Ms. Goodridge brings extensive experience in government relations, intergovernmental affairs, stakeholder management, and advocacy, with comprehensive engagement across local, state, and federal government and experience in both the public and private sectors.

Ms. Goodridge has a long history of advocating for and serving the Brooklyn borough. Prior to joining Downstate, Ms. Goodridge served as Director of Constituent Affairs & Chief of Staff for New York State Assembly Member Diana C. Richardson, where she engaged directly with senior staff and community members, overseeing both administrative and constituent concerns, and acting as a liaison between members and key community stakeholders. She is also the President of the Brooklyn Clarendon Meadows Lions Club as well as Director of Operations of the education non-profit, Determined to Educate.

A Brooklyn native, Ms. Goodridge graduated from CUNY at Medgar Evers College with a BS in Business Administration before earning a Master of Science Degree in Information Science from Pratt Institute, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.



Than Han Born and raised in one of Southeast Asia's least-developed countries, Than Han witnessed firsthand how healthcare disparities could shape—and limit—lives. These early experiences fueled his deep commitment to health equity, pushing him beyond simply pursuing medicine to leveraging research as a tool for real-world actions.

A Brooklyn College graduate with a B.S. in Health and Nutrition Sciences (Pre-Med), Than thrives at the intersection of research and advocacy. His work spans global and local communities—from traveling to Panama with Global Medical Brigades to deliver medical care in rural areas to contributing research on Ghanaian immigrant mental well-being in New York. As a SPRINTER Summer Research scholar at SUNY Downstate, he conducted an epidemiological study on blood pressure and premature mortality under Dr. Rose Calixte, exploring how social determinants shape health outcomes.

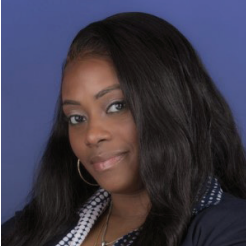
But Than doesn't just analyze data—he builds connections. Whether fundraising for medical missions, recruiting research participants, or organizing stakeholder meetings, he thrives in community engagement and cross-cultural collaboration.

When he's not championing health equity, you'll find him on the badminton court, roller skating or running through the city—always in motion, just like his mission to create healthier, more equitable communities, one step at a time.



Marcus Lambert, PhD is the Associate Vice President for Research Strategy and Operations at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University. In this role, Dr. Lambert oversees efforts to expand the university's extramural research portfolio in areas of health equity and clinical research. Dr. Lambert also co-leads multiple research training programs at Downstate with a focus on recruiting and training underrepresented scientists in health disparities research. Dr. Lambert is one of the Principal Investigators of the TRANslational Program Of health disparities Research Training (TRANSPORT and TRANSPORT II), two \$10 million endowment grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Clinical Research Scholars Training Program (CREST), a \$2.6 million grant from the NIH to support health disparities and equity-focused research training.

Dr. Lambert was selected as one of New York's Life Sciences Power 50 and one of Cell Press' 100 Inspiring Black Scientists in America. He is also a member of national boards such as HHMI's Center for the Advancement of Science Leadership and Culture Advisory Board and a member of NIH Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity Study Section. Dr. Lambert received his Ph.D. in biomedical science from NYU Grossman School of Medicine and his B.S. from Howard University. He holds an M.S. in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research from Weill Cornell Graduate School. Dr. Lambert currently resides in Brooklyn, NY with his wife and four children.



Lakia Maxwell, MSCH is the TRANSPORT Program Manager and Project Administrative Officer at the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center (BHDC), at Downstate Health Sciences University. She received a Master's in Community Health at Hofstra University in 2016. Ms. Maxwell joined The Brooklyn Health Disparities Center in 2014 and served as Research Education Coordinator. In that capacity, Ms. Maxwell provides support for the Center's Executive Team in submission of NIH and other grant proposals. She manages the financial expenditures and scholar recruitment processes of the TRANSPORT Endowment Program. She has developed and maintained web based and social media communications, brochures, pamphlets among many other products. Ms. Maxwell is engaged in program planning and designing, as well as the implementation of research activities. She is also the Center's Internship coordinator for high school, undergraduates, graduate, and medical school students. Additionally, Ms. Maxwell is the CREST Program Coordinator to which she brings expertise in coordinating project activities, managing schedules, and ensuring project deliverables are completed on time and within budget. Furthermore, Ms. Maxwell provides Program Evaluation, Survey Design, Graphic Design, Logic Model Development, SMART Goal and Objective Development, as well as Budget and Timeline Development in her roles. She has also assisted with and has a passion for both Community Based Participatory Research and Community Engaged Research. Through her passion for community health, Ms. Maxwell also served as a

professor at SUNY Empire State College where she taught "Introduction To Community and Public Health". Here, she really enjoyed teaching the next generation of public health professionals.



Cordero McCall, MBA, MPH is a third-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees at SUNY Albany. In later years, he earned Master of Business at Saint Louis University in hopes of utilizing both his MBA and MPH during his medical endeavors.

McCall is a research fellow and member of the esteemed Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He is also a proud alumnus of Northwestern University's Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Training Program (NU-MHRT), Northwestern University's Uterine Leiomyoma Research Center Lab Immersion Program, and Rothman's Orthopaedic Summer Immersion Research Program.

His passions are directly focused on bridging the gap between underserved populations and increasing access to care for these vulnerable populations.

His research interests are largely focused on creating more equitable environments for the underserved and advancing health equity. His projects are mostly focused on basic, translational, clinical, and population science. His current research projects include colorectal men's health, prostate cancer, orthopedics, chronic diseases, and global health.



Edeline Mitton, MEd, MPH is a healthcare professional who has significantly contributed to the healthcare industry. Presently, Ms. Mitton is the Director of Continuing Medical Education at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, where she has demonstrated her expertise in several areas.

As Director of Continuing Medical Education, Ms. Mitton works closely with faculty throughout the Downstate system to develop and deliver educational programs. She ensures all educational activities meet relevant regulations, accreditation system criteria, policies, standards, and the AMA PRA credit system requirements. Her expertise in educational planning, evaluation, and outcomes analysis has been instrumental in the success of the Office for CME. Aside from her work at Downstate, Ms. Mitton is an active volunteer, generously giving her time to organizations such as the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education. The SACME Presidential Award recognized her contributions in 2014 and 2017, and she received Presidential Recognition in 2023.

Ms. Mitton is an ambassador and reviewer with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, helping to share the importance of community-engaged research, and a member of the AGING Initiative Patient/Caregiver Advisory Council. Her passion for improving healthcare outcomes and dedication to her profession make her an outstanding individual who has significantly impacted her field.



Onyekachi Okeke or Onye for short, is a first semester student of SUNY Downstate's School of Public Health, in she is in the Community Health Sciences concentration. She recently graduated from and Hunter College, as a Human Biology and Sociology major. Onye is very passionate about racial justice, health equity, higher education and accessing basic needs for underserved communities. She accredits her previous experiences and her Project-19 Initiative, being great influences in her interest in activism and community engagement. By volunteering for the TRANSPORT symposium, Onye hopes to learn more about social determinants of health and health disparities, and help facilitate discussion on different strategies being implemented to improve the United States healthcare system for all.

Onye is highly interested in public health and sees the TRANSPORT symposium as a pathway to network with leaders and advocates in the field and learn on how she can participate in the mission to bring transformative change through advocacy, policymaking, and community engagement. In her free time, Onye loves to read and write, journal, take pictures and go on adventures, meet new people and make friends, watch YouTube videos, cook and bake. Fun fact: she has her own bakery business called Onye's Delights!



Anya Razmi joined the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center in August 2024 and serves as the TRANSPORT Project Staff Assistant. She graduated summa cum laude from Yale University in May 2024, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English alongside completing the pre-medical curriculum. Currently, she supports the TRANSPORT team in communications, social media, and program implementation. Anya is also the COO of Sprxng, a health technology startup through which she developed a patented novel menstrual disk, and a public health research intern at Yale's Social and Gerontology Lab. Prior to these roles, she studied HIV-1 at the Yale School of Medicine and researched pre- and postpartum maternal mental health at Yale's Affect Regulation and Cognition Lab. She has additional experience in digital content creation and communications as a profile writer for Nunchi Health, a content designer for Workiva, and a writing tutor at the Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning. In the future, she hopes to continue to pursue her passions for public health, science communications, and medicine.



Wayne Riley, M.D., MPH, MBA, MACP is the 17th President of The State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Health Sciences University. He is an academic primary care general internist

with more than 25 years of executive management and leadership experience in academic medicine, healthcare management, government, and advocacy. Before joining Downstate, Dr. Riley held professorships at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management. For six years, he served as the 10th president, chief executive officer, and professor of Medicine at Meharry Medical College. Dr. Riley earned his Bachelor of Arts from Yale University, his Doctor of Medicine from the Morehouse School of Medicine, a Master of Public Health from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and a Master of Business Administration from Rice University's Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Riley was recently named among the 2022 Brooklyn Power 100 by City & State Magazine. And in June, alongside Drs. Anthony Fauci and Eric Topol received the National Medical Humanism Medal from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, where he is Board Secretary. Dr. Riley was elected in 2020 as Board Chair of the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) making him the first black board chair in NYAM's 173-year history. He is a Commissioner of the non-partisan U.S. Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) and President Emeritus, Former Regent, and Master of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Dr. Riley is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) of the National Academy of Sciences, has served as Vice-Chair, and later as Chair of NAM's Section on the Administration of Health Services, Education, and Research. Dr. Riley is President of the Society of Medical Administrators, a member of the American Clinical and Climatological Association, the Sullivan Alliance to Diversify the Health Professions, Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities. Dr. Riley serves on the Boards of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, YMCA of Greater New

York, Catholic Charities Brooklyn & Queens, and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.



Grace Ruiz is a seasoned nonprofit professional with over 10 years of experience in community outreach and program management. Born and raised in New York City, Grace has dedicated her career to serving vulnerable populations, with a deep commitment to homelessness prevention, refugee and asylee services, legal assistance, and workforce development.

As Assistant Program Director at CAMBA, Grace leads several critical outreach initiatives, including HomeBase, Legal Services, Workforce Development, and Refugee & Asylee Services. She is particularly passionate about engaging and educating underserved communities about available services, ensuring they not only know about but also understand how to access the support they need. Under her leadership, CAMBA's You Can Van, a mobile outreach unit, has revolutionized the way the organization connects with those at risk of homelessness, providing essential services and a welcoming presence in some of the most marginalized communities of Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Grace's approach is rooted in a deep understanding of the challenges these communities face and the importance of building trust through education, outreach, and empathetic engagement. Her expertise lies in fostering strong relationships with individuals and families, empowering them to make informed decisions that lead to tangible improvements in their lives. Her work exemplifies her dedication to making a lasting, positive impact in her community, advocating for those who need

it most while helping to create pathways to greater stability and opportunity.



Moro Salifu, MD, MBA, MPH, MACP is a tenured Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medicine at State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University in Brooklyn. He also is the Edwin C. and Anne K. Weiskopf Endowed Chair in Nephrology and Transplantation. He has served as fellowship program director since 2003, division chief of nephrology, and director of the kidney transplant program at SUNY Downstate since 2008. He has trained and mentored many residents and fellows, across different institutions in New York and in several States. Board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology.

Dr. Salifu is known for his outstanding clinical, research and administrative skills. He is highly respected within the Downstate community, as well as, in the national nephrology community. He is a productive investigator whose research interests include vascular

biology, chronic kidney disease progression, and kidney transplant outcomes. He is the recipient of numerous grants and is Director of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center, a partnership between SUNY Downstate Medical Center, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, and the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President. Dr. Salifu is also one of the Principal Investigators of the TRANSlational Program Of health disparities Research Training (TRANSPORT and TRANSPORT II), two \$10 million endowment grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance the work of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center.

Dr. Salifu is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. For his exemplary contributions in science and in leadership, Dr. Salifu was recognized as Master of the American College of Physicians (ACP) in 2018 in the Annual ACP Convocation ceremony in New Orleans. Dr. Salifu serves as Chair of the Chapter's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force and Past Councilor of the Brooklyn District. He is a long-standing, loyal supporter of the ACP, has rendered distinguished service to the chapter, and has upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the College is known.

Most recently, Dr. Salifu received the Laureate Award at the New York American College of Physicians annual gala. The Laureate Award recognizes and honors those Fellows and Masters of the ACP who have demonstrated an enduring commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, and service to their community, their chapter, and the American College of Physicians.

He has also been recognized as Best Doctor- US News and World Report, Castle Connelly Top Doctor, included in Worldwide Registry of Executives and Professionals, and was honored as among Brooklyn's best by Schneps Media at its 2020 annual Kings of Kings County awards event, just to name a few. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals nationally and internationally. He is also a member and journal reviewer for Nephrology and Transplant societies and has served on many local and national professional committees. He is the past president of the New York Society of Nephrology for the 2013–14 academic year.



Hannah Stevenson is a Master's student in the Public Health program with a concentration in Healthcare Administration. She earned her Bachelor's from the University at Albany in Human Biology in 2020 and is currently a Medical Assistant at a Reproductive Specialty Office.



Pamela Straker, MA, PhD is the Director of Operations for the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center (BHDC) and Research Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine/College of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. In her role with BHDC, she provides administrative coordination, project management, development, instruction, and support for the Center and its researchers. As well, she oversees all Center HR, finances, and grants administration. Dr. Straker is a licensed psychologist who has also had extensive experience in management of, and consultation to, not for profit organizations and programs serving populations in which the greatest health disparities have existed. Dr. Straker has also had significant experience with community-based organizations, private funders, policy makers, and governmental entities, has taught on the undergraduate and graduate levels, and has implemented programs across Brooklyn and in Manhattan. She is an Amazon Best Selling Author, having written in the

area of management and leadership, most recently contributing to, Letters to My Corporate Sisters... Stories of Endurance, Elevation, and Encouragement. She is currently focused on the area of caregiving and has penned the book, Heroic Caregiver, An Anthology of Lessons on Resilience, Coping, and Laughter scheduled for release in 2024. She has appeared as a guest on numerous television and radio programs. Dr. Straker holds a doctoral degree in School-Community Psychology from Hofstra University, where she also received a master's degree and has achieved alumna status at Columbia University's Executive Level Institute for Not-for-Profit Management. She earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Rochester.



Kadeen Waldron (she/her) is a Guyanese-born writer, and multidisciplinary professional. She's pursuing her MPH at SUNY-Downstate Health Sciences University, and earned a B.A. in Psychology, minor—Public Administration, from Medgar Evers College-CUNY. She has a background in advocacy, education, and software release coordination. Kadeen's special interests include history, literature, media, and culture, and she has a professional interest in environmental justice, disability justice (particularly mental healthcare), disaster preparedness & response, and sustainable rural & urban development. Her work prioritizes vulnerable/marginalized populations, and is rooted in social justice, anticolonialism, and anti-imperialism.



Dorella Walters, MPA Dorella Walters is the Chief Business Development Officer and is responsible for client outreach efforts and establishing community-based and healthcare partnerships for the agency.

Dorella is focused on supporting the organization's delivery of more than 3.6 million nutritious, medically tailored, high-quality meals to more than 12,600 individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-altering illnesses in New York City and its surrounding counties.

In this role, she is responsible for reaching more than 7,000 new clients a year and for helping God's Love to identify, prospect, and navigate new business opportunities and maintain community relationships. These efforts include expanding the organization's visibility regarding the impact of medically tailored home-delivered meals on healthcare costs and health outcomes, resulting in new partnerships that build varied and sustainable revenue streams for the agency.

Dorella has held various leadership positions in her tenure at God's Love that has given her a unique insight into the clients and communities that we serve. Under her leadership, the organization has seen significant growth in our business line by establishing and maintaining healthcare contracts with managed care organizations, hospital systems, accountable care organizations and other community-based agencies. Prior to this role, Ms. Walters served as the Senior Director for Program Services where she was responsible for planning and designing the department's response to agency goals around mission expansion, client growth and client retention.

About

The 8th Annual TRANSPORT Symposium, *Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Building Healthier Communities Together*, is a vital gathering of healthcare professionals, community-based organizations (CBOs), researchers, and public health advocates committed to tackling the deep-rooted inequities in social determinants of health (SDOH). The primary problem the symposium seeks to address is the significant disparity in access to critical SDOH—housing, mental health support, and food security—within Brooklyn's underrepresented communities. These disparities contribute to a persistent cycle of health inequity, limiting opportunities for individuals and families to achieve optimal well-being and straining public health resources.

Hosted by SUNY Downstate's TRANSPORT program, the symposium aims to bridge the gap between healthcare systems and community-based solutions by fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strategic action. Through in-depth discussions, expert panels, and interactive breakout sessions, participants will explore innovative ways to integrate healthcare with housing initiatives, strengthen mental health support networks, and address food insecurity as a fundamental component of health. The symposium aims to empower communities with sustainable, equity-driven solutions that improve health outcomes and build a foundation for lasting change by aligning efforts across sectors.

Target Audience

The symposium addresses topics important to practicing providers, provider assistants, scientists, trainees, and community groups. With this aim in mind, the following groups will be invited to participate in the symposium: healthcare professionals, community-based organizations (CBOs), researchers, and public health advocates to address key social determinants of health (SDOH) and explore actionable steps to create healthier communities. CBOs will play a major role in designing and facilitating the symposium activities.

Objectives

Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Identify challenges in the intersectionality of SDOH factors and their cumulative impact on community health.
- Identify 1–2 actionable steps to improve collaboration and resource allocation among healthcare systems, public health advocates, and CBOs.
- Highlight effective strategies currently in place to address these challenges.
- Uncover gaps and under-addressed areas that need greater attention.
- Learn from CBOs' unique perspectives and proven practices in addressing SDOH challenges.

Accreditation & Designation Statement

Downstate Health Sciences University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Downstate Health Sciences University designates this live activity for a maximum of **4.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

CME Disclosure Summary | March 28, 2025

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Office of CME (OCME) and its affiliates are committed to providing educational activities that are objective, balanced, and as free of bias as possible. The OCME has established policies that will identify and mitigate all conflicts of interest prior to this educational activity. All accredited providers are required to mitigate and disclose to the activity audience the relevant financial relationships of the planners, presenters, and authors involved in the development of accredited content. An individual has a relevant financial relationship if he or she has a financial relationship in any amount occurring in the past 24 months with an ineligible company whose products or services are discussed in the accredited activity content over which the individual has control. **All of the relevant financial relationships listed for these individuals have been mitigated.**

The following faculties reported no relevant relationships with any organization that could be perceived as a real or an apparent conflict in the context of the subject of the presentation.

Aimee Afable	Ernest Barthelemy	Maria Contel
Daniel Elkhe	Marilyn Fraser	Marcus Lambert
Thomas Mackie	Brendaly Rodriguez	Moro Salifu
Carla Boutin-Foster	Marlene Camacho-Rivera	Wendy Davies
Ali Foti	Betty Jung	Allen Lewis
Michelle Morse	Louise Square	Azure Thompson

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for the individual(s) below have been mitigated.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Moro Salifu	Pamela Straker
Aimee Afable	Lakia Maxwell
Carla Boutin-Foster	Azure Thompson
Marlene Camacho-Rivera	Edeline Mitton (CE)
Marcus Lambert	

RELATIONSHIPS

NONE



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