



Department of Graduate Public Health



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Department of Graduate Public Health

October 4, 2018

Dear Dean Ruby Perry and Colleagues,

As we begin the 2018-2019 academic year, I want to share with you some of the major accomplishments and activities of the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) during its first full year of existence. More details are contained in this 2017-2018 annual report.

The 2017-2018 academic year witnessed several important steps toward reaching accreditation status of our Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP). The application for accreditation ¹which was submitted in April of 2018 was approved by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) on June 21, 2018. ² This approved applicant status has elevated our program to be eligible to complete and submit a self-study and schedule a site visit in the 2018-2019 academic year. This achievement was reached by the collaborative efforts of faculty and staff in the department to completely revise and align the GPHP curriculum³ to meet the new 2016 CEPH public health competencies⁴. Dr. David Banks, Assistant Professor in the School of Education played an integral role in the faculty development sessions that were developed to assist and engage DGPH faculty in the curriculum mapping and alignment process.

Concurrent to the process of mapping the course offerings to twenty-two (22) standardized competencies set by CEPH, we were required to develop program specific competencies that set our program apart from other public health programs. We developed in collaboration with the Chair of the external advisory committee, eight (8) program specific goals which also were mapped to course offerings to ensure that students who graduate from the GPHP have a unique experience that can only be received here at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to curriculum mapping and competency development, the DGPH team (Advisory Committee, Accreditation Committee, and Faculty) revised and developed the vision, mission, and goals of the GPHP. Included in this annual report are these guiding statements and the measurable objectives that will be used to track the success of the program.

¹ Appendix A: CEPH Application for Accreditation

² Appendix B: CEPH Application Acceptance Letter

³ Appendix C: MPH Curriculum

⁴ Appendix D: Curriculum Mapped to Competencies

In conjunction with the work to complete the tasks described above, we also continued to serve the University community and the local area communities by: 1) serving on committees; 2) delivering presentations at local, national and international venues; 3) publishing articles in peer reviewed journals; and 4) providing service learning activities with community partners.

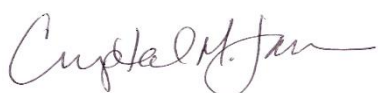
During the 2017-2018 academic year the DGPH put on several successful events for the purpose of community engagement, student enrichment, advocacy, and health promotion. The first lecture in the Dr. Isabella Finkelstein lecture series was given by Dr. Kimberly Taylor kicking off the Rural Health Lecture Series in October 2017. The second annual pinning ceremony was held in January 2018 and the student challenge was delivered by Kenneth Ray, MPH Deputy Director Tobacco, Policy, System & Environmental Change for Chronic Disease Prevention Georgia Department of Public Health. Faculty members also gave poster and keynote presentations at local, national and international conferences and invited lecturer opportunities.

Several community partnerships were established to include pipeline development relationships with undergraduate programs in public health.⁵ These programs were designed to enrich our research and service learning opportunities as well as to continue to recruit quality students into the GPHP. Included in this annual report is a list of community partners and engagement opportunities that were initiated.

Lastly during the 2017-2018 academic year DGPH gained new faculty and administrative support with the addition of Dr. Ehsan Abdalla as the Director of Analytics and lecturer.

Thank you for your support and attention to the newest department in the College of Veterinary Medicine. We welcome any suggestions you may have that will enhance the opportunities for the DGPH to further its growth, all while educate students and maintain a professional environment.

Best,

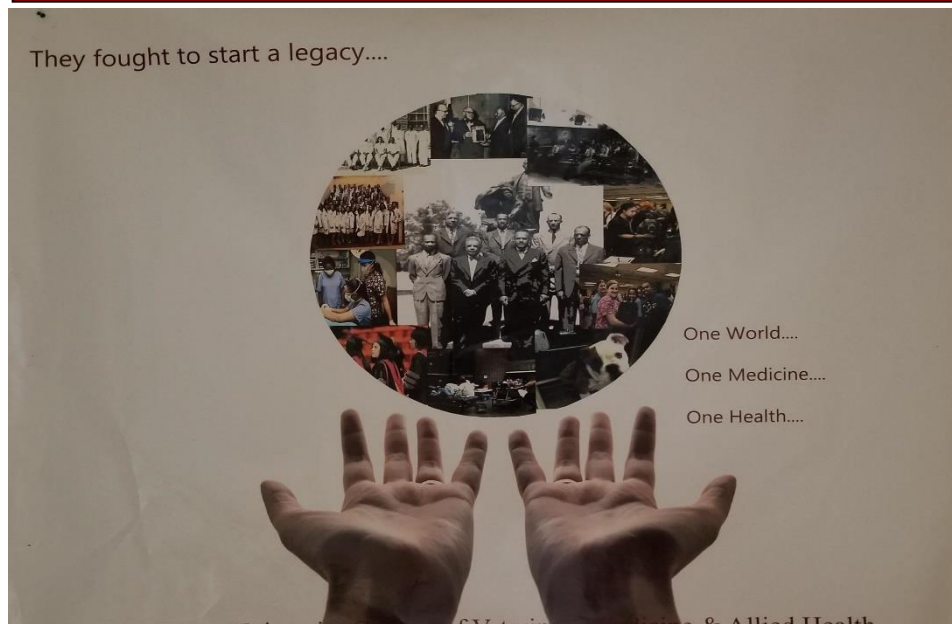


Crystal M. James, JD, MPH
Head, Department Graduate Public Health
Director, Graduate Public Health Program
Associate Professor of Graduate Public Health

⁵ Appendix E: Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Dillard University

DGPH VISION & MISSION

The vision of the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP), College of Veterinary Medicine and Tuskegee University, is to become a comprehensive graduate public health program, preparing public health professionals to prevent illness and injury while improving the health of communities both rural and urban from neighborhoods and villages to cities and even countries.



The mission of the Tuskegee graduate program in public health is to prepare public health professionals to draw on knowledge and skills from a number of disciplines to define, assess critically, resolve public health problems and promote populations health. The program of study develops core competencies in multiple areas, including the quantitative sciences, health services administration, biological, social, behavioral and environmental sciences, ethics, health policy and law.

As Dr. Frederick Patterson third President (1935-1955) of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), Founder of the United Negro College Fund (1944), recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1987) from President Ronald Reagan and the founder of Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) stated:

“Change agents are critical links to enable a community to grow, be healthy and make a positive contribution to America. Their road is often rocky, but they are sustained by their training and commitment to make the world a better place in which to live.” (Source: Speech, 1944 New York)

L-RISE GOALS

Our program goals are focused on leadership, research, innovative teaching, service learning and ethics (L-RISE) which reflect the belief of Dr. Patterson. Methods for collection and review of the data for continuous quality improvement of these goals and the program have been developed and implemented. The program's L-RISE goals with defined evaluated measures are listed below.

Goal #1: Excellence in Leadership - Train, educate and equip public health graduates for leadership roles through effective management, policy analysis, health planning and competence in community education and engagement.

Goal #2: Excellence in Research - Utilizing collaborative partnerships to foster Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) strategies for improving community/population health and well-being.

Goal #3: Excellence in Innovative Teaching - Nurture critical thinking and innovative teaching strategies to excel on the highest academic platforms.

Goal #4: Excellence in Service Learning - Establish strong community partnerships for an effective/efficient delivery of a timely evidenced based service learning, with respect, integrity and inclusion of community stake holders.

Goal #5: Excellence in Public Health Ethics - Train and prepare public health graduates in the essential aspects of public health ethics, for the workforce and for community advancement.



Community Engagement, Service and Advocacy



DGPH PROGRAMS & INTERVENTIONS

Pinning Ceremony

The annual pinning ceremony is held at the beginning of each Spring semester. Students who have successfully completed a minimum of 30 credit hours and received the recommendation from their academic advisor will receive the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP) pin. This prestigious pin signifies their readiness to complete the final stages of their professional training, with the competencies and skills necessary for the public health work force. This pin was designed by the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ruby Perry and Program Director Attorney Crystal M. James. Also, during this ceremony the students who have successfully completed at least one academic semester of course work and identified their area of focus for experiential learning and community engagement receives the GPHP blazer which signifies that they are prepared to engage in practical experience in the field of public health and represent the mission of the GPHP.

Challenge Speaker: Mr. Kenneth Ray, MPH
Deputy Director Tobacco, Policy, System & Environmental Change
Georgia Department of Public Health



Rural Health Lecture Series

To inform the translation of core research and laboratory findings, a newly established Rural Public Health Lecture Series has been initiated to raise awareness of public health issues in rural America. This Lecture series will also support academic advancement of the faculty relative to emerging issues in public health practice. During the reporting period the Dr. Isabella Finkelstein lecture was instituted and Dr. Kimberly Taylor an Epidemiologist and Program Manager with Karna, LLC delivered the first lecture.



Dr. Kimberly R. Taylor has over 19 years of experience as an Epidemiologist in areas of behavioral and environmental surveillance, infectious and chronic diseases, and Bioterrorism. During her career, Dr. Taylor has established strong and congenial professional relationships with local, state, federal, and international health agencies in the interest of fostering attainment of positive public health prevention outcomes. As a Project Manager at Karna, LLC (contractor for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Dr. Taylor is responsible for coordinating internal resources and third parties/vendors for the flawless execution of projects. Dr. Taylor's efforts ensures timely delivery of projects that are within scope and within budget, using inclusive strategies to ensure all relevant stakeholders participate in defining project scope and deliverables, ensuring technical feasibility, as well as, ensuring resource availability and allocation. Her expertise is in coordinated epidemiologic, scientific and technical support, monitoring and assessing health behaviors; and managing surveillance and program evaluation. Dr. Taylor has also researched behavioral risk factors, evaluated the effectiveness of public health education with regards to exposure of disease, and identified environmental and social influences that affect health outcomes.

Dr. Taylor has authored and co-authored publications in peer-reviewed journals in an effort to evaluate the tools and methods used to implement intervention programs in health care organizations and community centers. She also has vast knowledge and experience in human resources, organizational management, policy and community assessment to effectively and appropriately identify and evaluate solutions to public health problems. With over 25 years of teaching experience, Dr. Taylor also serves as a Mentor for Public Health students. Finally, Dr. Taylor earned a Master's in Public Health in Health Administration, a Master of Science in Epidemiological Science and a doctorate in Public Health, Epidemiology.

Dr. Isabella Finkelstein Lecture

The Dr. Isabella Finkelstein lecture is intended to motivate students to use their time, talents, and resources to ensure that the most vulnerable and underserved populations have access to culturally competent health messages and the innovative scientific discoveries necessary to improve their health status.

Advocacy

Service Learning and Policy Analysis

The DGPH requires that students not pursuing the thesis option to complete a practicum that originates from a current community need as articulated by the community. During this reporting period one graduating student completed a practicum engaging the Ashbar/Smith community members who reside near Stone's Throw Landfill in Tallassee, AL. A policy analysis was completed and a meeting was held to give findings and recommendations to the community. The permitting process was defined and explained along with recommendations for points of advocacy before the next permitting cycle for the landfill.



Thesis Translated to Intervention Strategies

The GPHP requires students selecting the thesis option to not only thoroughly investigate and defend a novel research question but also translate and deliver findings in a community setting wherein the learnings are immediately available to the communities that may benefit from the research findings. Students presented at the Community Health forum sponsored by Tuskegee University Libraries, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Tuskegee Alumnae Chapter, and the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program entitled “Communities United: Building Healthy Lives Health Forum and Fair April 28, 2018. The issues presented during the health forum by faculty and students are as follows:

- Reframing National Security: Health Security in Rural Alabama (Crystal M. James, JD, MPH)
- Policy Analysis: Landfill Permitting Process and the Ashurst Bar/Smith Community (Nathalia Beras Ramirez, MD, MPH)
- The Effect of State Laws on Breast Feeding Practices (Candy De La Cruz, MD, MPH)



Partnerships with Community Organizations

To operationalize the vision, mission and goals listed above the DGPH has leveraged several community partnerships to collaborate towards decreasing health disparities. Listed below is a brief description of each collaborative partner.

Gift of Life Foundation (GOL) was founded in 1988 to reduce Montgomery County's high infant mortality rate. Today, GOL is building stronger communities through home visiting, mobile family coaching and other support programs that improve the health and well-being of the 554 at-risk families we serve. Our motto is: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Healthy Communities. Our programs address the maternal-child health needs of pregnant women, parenting mothers and/or fathers and caregivers of infants and children through the age of two (2). Our goals are to reduce infant mortality, preterm birth and low birth weight; equip mothers to have a healthy pregnancy and birth outcome; promote early childhood development; provide effective parenting skills; and help mothers and/or fathers become more self-sufficient. Our goals are accomplished through our community outreach programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Mobile Family Coaching, Group Coaching and Fathers in Action.

Mission: To improve the health and well-being of at-risk mothers and babies to build stronger communities.

Vision: To foster an environment in Montgomery where:

- All pregnant women are able to receive prenatal care beginning in their first trimester.
- Healthcare and social services for mothers and babies are connected to each other in an efficient safety net.
- Every infant is fully screened and vaccinated.
- The teen pregnancy rate is well below Alabama's overall rate.
- The community is proud to stand up for at-risk mothers, children, and families.

Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, Inc. (TAHEC) serves individuals and families throughout a 19-county area of the Black Belt region of Central Alabama. In partnership with the Macon County Diabetes Coalition, of which TAHEC's Executive Director is lead, TAHEC provides health screenings and education to a highly-rural, underserved populations. For purposes of this proposal, TAHEC will extend services in Macon, Bulloch and Montgomery Counties, AL to provide screening, education and health care management for Type 2 Diabetes, Hypertension, Obesity and Smoking cessation activities.

Tuskegee Macon County Community Foundation, Inc. (TMCCF) was founded in October 2002 and reorganized in June 2012 with the new mission of enhancing the quality of life in disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas through the reduction of health disparities and advancing health equity. It is a 501 (c)(3) public charity and is one of the few community foundations serving a predominately rural area.

Currently, a particular focus is on health equity in a rural area region. It sees as its major goals to develop appropriate partnerships that address critical issues and challenges in disadvantage communities, and build and sustain philanthropic capital. Consistent with its mission, TMCCF plays an integral role in marshalling resources, both people and financial, to address a community's needs such as the reduction of health disparities.

As a community foundation, TMCCF leverages its expertise and relationships with local, state, and national stakeholders to convene and engage key decision makers in dialogue and action-oriented planning focused on capacity-building, impacts, and outcomes. TMCCF also engages in outreach to diverse stakeholders to collaborate on the development of a strategic agenda for community and economic development particularly in rural and urban poor

communities. To meet the goal of cost effective health and human service delivery in Tuskegee Macon County, TMCCF, Inc. engaged Westat, Inc. and A2D, Inc. as critical partners in meeting the healthcare challenges of the Tuskegee Macon County region that evolved into the Telehealth EcoSystem™ model. In April 2017, TMCCF organized the first Health Roundtable that resulted in health organizations convening on a regular basis to become more acquainted with programs and leadership to better serve Macon County.

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP

Student Advising & Experiential learning

All students are provided with academic support to attain a set of minimum standards in several disciplines inclusive of Epidemiology; Environmental Health Sciences; Public Health Administration, Policy and Law; Proposal Writing and Grant Management; Biomedical Statistics; Psychosocial Determinants of Health; Health Disparities and Inequities; Risk Analysis and Modeling; and an Introduction to Public Health. Each of these subjects requires a different set of skills and it is not expected that all students will have the necessary resources to immediately excel in all disciplines. Therefore, resources are made available to help students maximize the informational intake they get from each discipline. Academic advisors are selected from fulltime faculty within the GPH. These pairings are within 2 weeks of the students' acceptance into the program at the beginning of the semester. All MPH students are required to meet with their Faculty Advisor at least twice per semester. The Faculty advisor must approve the student's proposed study list each semester prior to registration. Once the Faculty Advisor has approved the study list, the form must be submitted to the Program Director, for advising on the student's progress towards completion of the program. If the student feels additional assistance is needed, they are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Faculty Advisor at any time.

Experiential Learning Opportunities are sought out and cultivated by faculty and staff of the DGPH to assist in translating the mission and vision of the program to public health practice. Each student is required, as delineated in the DGPH student handbook⁶ to complete an experiential learning experience as well as a practicum or thesis. These experiential learning opportunities are not possible without community partnerships with governmental and non-governmental community organizations that provide mentorship and hands on experience for our developing professionals. A mentoring program has been developed and is shared with each potential community mentor, to ensure that the experiences our students receive have the necessary rigor and engagement to meet the expectations of the program.⁷



⁶ Appendix G: DGPH Student handbook updated August 2018

⁷ Appendix H: DGPH Mentoring Plan

College Activities & Professional Services

Crystal M. James, JD, MPH

Attorney James serves as the Head of the Department of Graduate Public Health she also provided the following services during the reporting period

- Member CVM Academic Appeals Committee
- Academic Advisor to all GPHP students
- Major Professor for two graduating MPH students
- Attorney James also delivered the following presentations during the reporting period:
- *“Collaborating and Cooperating for Social Justice”* Response to Keynote address entitled *“Untold Stories of Healing Associated with Collaborating and Cooperating that resulted in Social Justice”* given by Ms. Jo Valentine at the Public Health Ethics Intensive Course (PHEI) host by the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University (April 2017)
- *“Local Community Response to Disaster”* 28th Annual Lillian H. Harvey and the 8th Annual Marie Moore Lyles Symposium (October 2017)
- *“Enhancing Graduate Public Health Education through Library Services”* Alabama Association of Health Librarians (November 2017)
- *“One Health Solutions to Select Endemic Zoonosis with Public Health Significance”* Suez Canal University Ismailia, Egypt (November 2017)
- *“Reframing National Security: Health Security in Rural Alabama”* Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Lecture Series Western University London Ontario, Canada (March 2018)
- *“Reframing National Security: Communities United Towards Health Security”* Community Health Forum Sponsored by Tuskegee University Libraries and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (April 2018)

Lloyd Webb, DVM, MPH

- Member of the **PHHS Block Grant Advisory Committee**, Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Member of the **African American Brain Health Initiative (AABHI) Scientific and Medical Advisory Board**, Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey.
- Faculty Adviser to the student-driven Veterinary Public Health Club in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Faculty Adviser to the Graduate Public Health Student Organization in the Department of Graduate Public Health
- Provided student mentorship to graduate students in the Department of Graduate Public Health during the period under review.
- Supported the Diabetes Coalition Support Group in Tuskegee at its monthly meetings at Greenwood Baptist Church in Tuskegee.
- Provided ongoing service to the community organization of ***Student for Education and Economic Development (SEED)*** and attended several of its weekly meetings in Tuskegee.

John Heath, PhD, MS

- Tuskegee University Institutional Animal and Care Committee
- Chair, Graduate Public Health Admissions Committee
- Faculty Achievement Award Committee

- President's Essay Contest Final Judge.
- HBGI Title III Administrator

Ehsan Abdalla, DVM, PhD

- On August 25, 2018 attended the "All Macon County Celebrations Day", I had an opportunity to invite Macon County community to attend the 19th Annual One Health symposium and participate in cervical cancer awareness workshop that will be held September 20 – 21, 2018 at the Kellogg Conference Center Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL.
- On August 30, 2018 had two meetings at the city of Tuskegee, Macon County to invite participants for the upcoming 19th Annual One Health Symposium and Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop as follows:
 - Mrs. Bernice Frazier, President/CEO and Mr. Darryl Rock, Director of SCL Foundation.
 - Tuskegee Police Department- Crime Prevention Unit: Neighborhood watch monthly meeting
- On September 4, 2018 attended Macon County Board of Education meeting and had an opportunity to invite women who are living in Macon County to attend the 19th Annual One Health symposium and participate in cervical cancer awareness workshop.
- On September 6, 2018 invited by Tuskegee Housing Authority Resident Council Executive Board to attend their monthly meeting. I had an opportunity to invite women who are living in Macon County to attend the 19th Annual One Health symposium and participate in cervical cancer awareness workshop.

Asseged Dibaba, DVM, Ph.D

- Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Risk Assessment Workshop to Facilitate Global Agricultural Trade in Africa: Cochran Fellowship Training Program (Grant #: 3022650097) [Co-PI].
- Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Risk Assessment Workshop to Facilitate Global Agricultural Trade in Africa. Grant #: 3022650095 (Co-PI).
- 5TH Pan African Conference on SPS and Science-based risk analysis to promote Agricultural Trade in Africa held June 4-5, 2018 in Dar es Salam, Tanzania (Funded by USDA).
- Offered SPS and Science-based and Risk Analysis Training (2/26 to 8/9/2018) as a part of the Cochran Fellowship Training Program (Funded by the Cochran Fellowship program through FAS, USDA).
- Offered SPS and Science-based and Risk Analysis Training (4/6-15/2018) as a part of the Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Risk Analysis Workshop to Facilitate Global Agricultural Trade in Africa (Funded by APHIS, USDA).
- Serving as admission committee member (Department of GPH, CVM, TU)
- Serving as a graduate committee member for graduate student

David Nganwa, DVM, MPH

- A comparative study of health disparities in Cervical Cancer Mortality Rates through time between Black and Caucasian women in Alabama and the US. Ehsan Abdalla, Ph.D.; Tsegaye Habtemariam, DVM, MPVM, PhD; Souleymane Fall, Ph.D.; Roberta Troy, Ph.D.; Berhanu Tameru, Ph.D.; David Nganwa, DVM, MPH.

- Co-PI on Community Engagement Core grant proposal Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH) (CBR/RCMI U54 grant number. MD007585 that was submitted to the NIH. Population to be served – residents of Macon County, AL. It successfully submitted and was funded.
- Co-PI on Pilot project grant proposal submitted to the Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH) (CBR/RCMI U54 grant number MD007585). Populations to be served: women aged 18 years and older who are living in Macon County, Alabama, USA. It successfully submitted and was funded.
- Presented at the 4th Pan African Conference and Workshop on SPS Regulations and Science-Based Risk Analysis May 22 – 23 And May 24 - June 2, 2017 respectively, Laico Lake Victoria Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda. I was on the organizing committee and the team to train scientists and government administrators from more than 10 African counties on capacity building in international standards for Sanitary/Phytosanitary measures and science based risk analysis to promote global trade of agricultural products. A USDA/ APHIS sponsored project.
- Prepares and reviews the material content that is to be posted on the Department of Graduate Public Health website: Class schedule, course content etc.
- On the departmental hospitality committee
- Mentored several graduate students
- Engages the community in Macon County through town halls settings and administer questionnaire on health related disparities on diseases like HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes etc.

Original Peer-Reviewed Publications

James C, Robinson, Jr. E, “*Prelude to a Revolution: Expanding the Power of the Black Lives Matters Movement to Decrease Deaths Caused by Legal Intervention in the United States*” *Journal of Healthcare, Science and the Humanities*. Vol. II, No. 1 (2017) p. 93-100.

James C, Ramirez N, “*Ethical Leadership and Authentic Partnership: A Road Map to Culture of Health in the Deep South*” *Proceedings from (February 5th-8th 2017) conference entitled, Examining Ethical and Other Implications for a Culture of Health in the Context of the Deep South.*

Mhalhal, T. R., Washington, M. C., Newman, K. J., **Heath, J. C.**, & Sayegh, A. I. (2017). Exogenous glucagon-like peptide-1 reduces body weight and cholecystokinin-8 enhances this reduction in diet-induced obese. *Physiology & Behavior*. In press.

Mhalhal, T. R., Washington, M. C., Newman, K. J., **Heath, J. C.**, & Sayegh, A. I. (2017). Infusion of exogenous cholecystokinin-8, gastrin releasing peptide-29 and their combination reduce body weight in diet-induced obese male rats. *Appetite* 109 172-181. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2016.12.001>

Behar-Horenstein, L. S., **Warren, R. C.**, Dodd, V. J., & Catalanotto, F. A. (2017). Addressing Oral Health Disparities Via Educational Foci on Cultural Competence. *American Journal of Public Health*, 107(S1), S18 S23. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2017.303721>

Treadwell, H. M., Catalanotto, F., **Warren, R. C.**, Behar-Horenstein, L. S., & Banks, S.H. (2017). Dental Health: Current Research Dental Practitioner's Perceptions of Underserved and Un-Served Patients' Barriers to Oral Health Care. *Dental Health: Current Research*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.4172/2470-0886.1000125>

Aidman, C., Aslam, F., Bussenius, H., Conboy, L., Giwa, J., Moore, C.E., Reznik, D., and **Warren, R. C.** (2017). Achieving Equity in Oral Health. A Data-driven Approach for Informing Policy Changes. *Journal of Community Medicine & Health Education*, (7)511. <https://doi.org/10.4172/2161-0711.1000511>

Warren, R. C., Shedlin, M.G., and Alema-Mensah, E., *Clinical Trials: African American Leadership Interviews Executive Version of the Literature and Findings*. National Center For Bioethics In Research and Health Care. Tuskegee University. September 2017.

Warren, R. C., & Walker, B. Jr., *An Ethical Framework for Population Health*. National Center For Bioethics In Research and Health Care, Tuskegee University. "Examining Ethical and Other Implications for a Culture of Health in the Context of the Deep South." Proceedings February 5-8, 2017.

Rodriguez-Lainz, A., & **Warren, R. C.**, *Health Inequities in the Deep South: Data Collection and Inclusion Strategies for Culturally Diverse and Socially Disadvantaged Groups*. National Center For Bioethics In Research and Health Care, Tuskegee University. "Examining Ethical and Other Implications for a Culture of Health in the Context of the Deep South." Proceedings February 5-8, 2017.

Warren, R. C., & Hodge, D., (Editors) Proceedings: "Examining Ethical and Other Implications for a Culture of Health in the Context of the Deep South". National Center For Bioethics In Research and Health Care, Tuskegee University, February 5-8, 2017.

Katz RV, Katz AE, **Warren R.C.**, Williams MT, Aqel H, Ilin D, McGowan R. Comparative Use of Tuskegee Syphilis Study film vs text triggers to teach bioethics: the SOETUF College Study. *Diversity & Equality in Health and Care Journal* August 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM





Many Disciplines...One Mission

Crystal M. James, JD, MPH

Attorney James' teaching philosophy is based upon the Socratic method aimed at elucidating the underlying beliefs and/or biases that inform and shape the position the student is choosing to champion. This time tested method of dialog between student and teacher integrated with the use of technology and current events allows the student to critically evaluate their position and apply it to multiple changing variables while allowing the teacher to evaluate the student's ability to understand public health policy, law, and administration and their application at origination and today. Her goal as a professor is to not only ensure understanding of the rule of law but also its application across the time continuum and societal influence; utilizing hermeneutics and ethical constructs of society to lead students to develop a full understanding of the genesis and application of the law, policy and administration of public health programs. Student development of intended skills will be assessed by class participation, demonstrated ability to respond to multilayered questions on topics relevant to the subject matter delivered, and written assessments.



Attorney James is from Broxton, GA and the only African American attorney from her home town. She has two siblings and is the mother to one daughter, Zora S. James who is a freshman in high school.

Education/Practice

- Earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Clark Atlanta University in 1994
- Earned a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University in 1996
- Earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from University of Houston in 1998
- Passed Georgia Bar Examination 1998
- Admitted to practice before Georgia Court of Appeals 1998
- Admitted to practice in the US District Court Northern District of Georgia in 2002
- Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia in 2012
- Established Chrysalis International Consulting, LLC in 2012

Research Interests & Foci:

- Legal Intervention's impact on the health of minority populations
- Defining health security in the United States
- Law and policy impact on the culture of health in black belt states

- Head, Department Graduate Public Health
- Director, Graduate Public Health Program
- Member, Executive Leadership Council College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
- *Academic Advisor for all GPHP students*
- Co-Chair One Health Symposium 2018
- Member, CVM Safety Committee
- Member, CVM Diversity Committee



Lloyd A.W. Webb, DVM, MPH

Dr. Lloyd Webb is a Professor of Public Health with 24 years of experience working in the field of public health. Early in his veterinary career, he embraced the One-Health concept that is inextricably linked to the human, animal, and environment. The convergence of human, animal and the environment is complex and requires the input of biological, physical, social, chemical and other factors with which all public health graduate students must become familiar as they seek to become change makers to underserved communities in a dynamic national and global environment. As a Public Health Epidemiologist and One-Health expert, he has been committed to serve in national, regional and international administrative, technical, regulatory, policy, and advisory capacities. His goal is to equip graduate public health students with knowledge and skills through mentoring and teaching them on the applications of the essential public health functions that are ethically linked to international health, food security (food safety, availability, accessibility, and affordability), zoonoses, and environmental health issues, using his vast international exposure and experience in public health, having served the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization for eleven years (2000 - 2011) as the Regional Advisor in Veterinary Public Health for the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Latin America. He continues to apply his experience and achievements to be a trusted partner in teaching, research, and service to all our graduate students through team partnerships and experiential exposure.



Dr. Lloyd Webb is from Trinidad and Tobago and a proud husband, father, and grandfather of four.

Education/Practice/Award

- Earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Tuskegee University in 1976
- Earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Tuskegee University in 1978
- Earned a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 1984
- Received a Diploma in Helminthology from the Commonwealth Institute of Parasitology in St. Albans, UK in 1990
- Certified in Food Safety Risk Communication and Food Safety Risk Management by the University of Maryland in 2011
- Practiced clinical veterinary medicine as a Small Animal Clinician and as a Large Animal Veterinary field practitioner in the Ministry of Agriculture in his native country (1978 - 1985)
- Continued to practice part-time as a Small Animal Clinician until 2000.

Research Interests & Foci:

- Food Safety and Zoonoses
- Health Disparities related to Environmental Health and Alzheimer's disease
- One Health Research

- Director, Veterinary Public Health Unit, Ministry of Health (1985 - 1994)
- Professor in Public Health at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- Commissioning Director of the Graduate Public Health Program (2011)
- Professor of Public Health, Department of Graduate Public Health
- Mentor and Academic Advisor for Graduate Public Health students
- Member, Advisory Board, African-American Brain Health Initiative at Rutgers University, Newark

Ehsan Abdalla, DVM, MSc, PHD

Her career goal is to reduce and/or eliminate cervical cancer disparities in underserved communities, especially the Black Belt Counties (BBC) of Alabama. To do this, she identified potential selection biases and definitions of vulnerable groups when detecting disparities. Her aim is to identify multilevel determinants of health disparities, including individual beliefs and preferences, effective patient-provider communication; and the organizational culture of the health care system. She encourages interventions that yield generalizable data on their effectiveness and that promote further engagement of communities, providers, and policymakers to ultimately enhance the application and the impact of health disparities research. Dr. Abdalla is a Research Centers in Minority Institutions International's member (RCMI), serving as a community liaison on Cervical Cancer in the BBC of Alabama. She is also working on HIV/AIDS with various health departments (Medical Advocacy Outreach). From 2010-2016, Dr. Abdalla was a winner of 6 awards in elimination of health disparities through a translational research. More recently she was awarded a one-year Pilot Project Grant (April 2018-April 2019) by Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health. Populations to be served: women aged 18 years and older who are living in Macon County, Alabama, US.



This map was created by Dr. Ehsan Abdalla and can be accessed from her Book Chapter publication: Abdalla Ehsan and Nganwa D. (2014). Factors Contributing to the Transmission of Bovine Tuberculosis Caused by *Mycobacterium. bovis* and its Control Status in Sudan. In: Zoonotic Tuberculosis *Mycobacterium. Bovis* and Other Pathogenic *Mycobacteria*. (eds Charles O. Thoen, James H. Steele & John B. Kaneene), 3rd edn. pp. 159-174. Wiley-Blackwell, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014.

Ehsan Abdalla is from Sudan, and a US citizen.
She has six siblings

Education/Practice

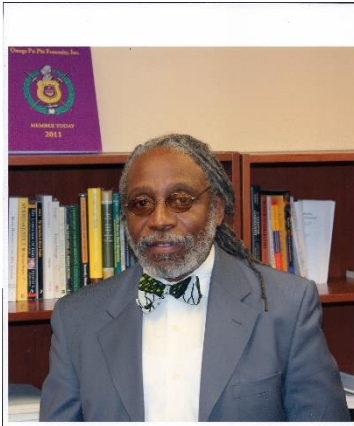
- Earned a DVM degree in Veterinary Science from Faisal Abad Agriculture University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pakistan, in 1993
- Earned a Master of Veterinary Science degree (Field of Study: Veterinary Pathology) from Faisal Abad Agriculture University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pakistan in 1995
- Earned a Master of Veterinary Science (Field of study: Epidemiology and Risk Analysis) from the Department of Pathobiology, Tuskegee University, USA, in 2011
- Earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Veterinary Science (Field of study: Epidemiology and Risk Analysis) from the Department of Pathobiology, Tuskegee University, USA, in 2017
- Licensure to practice veterinary medicine in Sudan and Pakistan in 1993

Research Interests & Foci:

- Identification of factors associated with the cervical cancer mortality disparities among Blacks living in the BBC of Alabama. These factors will need to be addressed in a systemic way at the levels of patients, providers, facilities, and health care systems.
- Identification of factors associated with cervical cancer screening among HIV-infected African American women in the BBC of Alabama.
- Combining tool related technologies in computational epidemiologic modeling, Risk Analysis and Geographic Information Systems. These tools could play in the advancement of the understanding disease processes and the identification of specific interventions and with the potential to impact and save lives of underserved women.

- Director of Analytics, Department Graduate Public Health
- Member: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Member of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
- Member of Research Centers in Minority Institutions International's member (RCMI)
- Chair the 1st Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop, 2018
- Member, CVM Diversity Committee

Rueben C. Warren, D.D.S., M.P.H., DR.P.H., M.DIV



Rueben C. Warren approaches the teaching and learning process by assuring that students develop a life-long learning philosophy. Graduate public health education is an academic process that demands evidence-based strategies to prevent diseases, adverse health conditions and promote health. New knowledge, particularly in health, evolves at a rate that demands the constant interchange of theory and practice. Public health is an applied science that requires a trans-disciplinary approach to population health. The lecture format to teaching public health has limited utility, particularly when knowledge, while important, does not drive health behavior. The process of being an effective public health graduate student is different from the undergraduate experience because graduate public health education demands continuous collective critical thinking and proactive behaviors on the part of students. Students must challenge current public health practices by understanding the science that undergirds

those practices and create new theories and practice based on basic and applied research. **Research** is developing new knowledge. **Education** is the process of acquiring, internalizing, facilitating and using knowledge. **Service** or, more generally, **Community Engagement** is translating, evidence-based findings into individual, group and community behaviors to improve the human condition. People educated in various disciplines of public health should know the basic principles of applied research, understand, and interpret the findings to improve population health.

Dr. Rueben C. Warren was born in San Antonio, Texas. He grew up in Southcentral Los Angeles, California. He has lived in both Northern and Southern California. He also has lived in Nashville, Tennessee; Boston, MA; Lagos, Nigeria; Hartford CT; Jackson, MS; Atlanta GA and Tuskegee AL.

Education/Practice

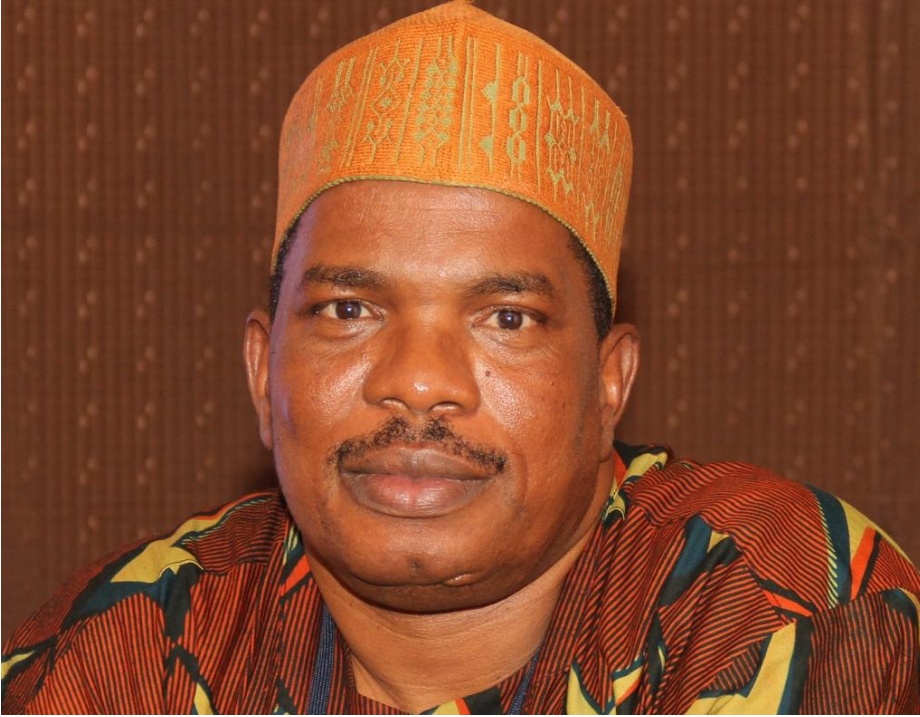
- Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from San Francisco State University-1968
- Doctor of Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College-1972
- Masters of Public Health Harvard School of Public Health-1973
- Teaching Fellow Harvard School of Public Health-1974
- Clinical Certificate in Dental Public Health, Harvard School of Dental Medicine-1973-75
- Doctor of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health- (Concentration in Health Service Research, Health Education and Dental Public Health)- 1975
- 1977-1979-Assistant Professor Department of Behavioral Science and Community Health School of Dental Medicine University of Connecticut Health Center Farmington, CT
- Board Certified in Dental Public Health (Specialty Board)-1986
- Masters of Divinity (Concentration in Theology and Ethics)- Interdenominational Theological Center-2007
- Instructor, Department of Dental Ecology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine 1975-76
- Dental Director, State of Mississippi-1980-83
- Dean of the School of Dentistry, Meharry Medical College- 1983-88
- Associate Director for Minority Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry 1988-1997
- Associate Director for Urban Affairs, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry 1997-2007
- Associate Director of Environment Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- 2008-2009
- Certificate in Bioethics Georgetown University-2009
- Licensed to practice dentistry in MA, CT, TN.

- Professor of Bioethics and Director National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, Tuskegee University
- Adjunct Professor: Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College Schools of Dentistry and School of Graduate Study and Research, Emory School of Public Health (Past), Professor of Medicine, Ethics and Public Health, Interdenominational Medicine
- Distinguished Alumni Award, Harvard School of Dental Medicine
- Honorary Doctor of Medicine Meharry Medical College
- Dean Emeritus, Meharry Medical College, Honorary Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Humane Letters, Meharry Medicine College
- Chairman of the Board of HEALing Community Governing Board (Federally Funded Community Health Center in Atlanta GA)
- Chair of the Advisory Board of the MSPH Program Meharry Medical College
- Chair of the Advisory Board of MPH Program Morehouse School of Medicine

Research Interest and Foci:

- Health Service Research
- Public Health
- Oral Health
- Faith/Health
- Ethics

Andrew Zekeri, PH.D.



Dr. Andrew A. Zekeri is professor of sociology and Graduate Faculty in the Department of Psychology and Sociology at Tuskegee University. His research focuses on rural poverty, family well-being, food insecurity and nutrition, and conspiracy theories about HIV/AIDS and food insecurity among HIV-positive patients. Dr. Zekeri also studies social and behavioral sciences perspective on rural health issues, community and economic development in the rural South. He has published articles in several international refereed scholarly journals. In 2015, Dr. Zekeri's book, "Issues and Challenges of the American Rural South," was published by Cognella Academic Publishing. He teaches the following graduate level classes (SOCI 541 Socio-Cultural Problems of the South, MSPH 610 Psychosocial Determinants of Health, [BSC-0710 Integrated Biosciences Lit Review](#), IPPD 0611 Social Issues & Pub Policy History; IPPD 0617 Race, Ethnicity and Public Policy. He holds a PhD in rural sociology from Pennsylvania State University.

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David D. Nganwa DVM, MPH

Education/Practice

- Earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Makerere University Kampala, Uganda, East Africa in 1979
- Earned a Master of Public Health degree from University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1989
- Member of Uganda Veterinary Board



My philosophy of teaching is to provide a lecture room environment where students are encouraged to express their own ideas and participate in their education experience. Although I stress individual responsibility for learning in the class, I also provide explanation and guidance regarding the course materials and subject matter. I want the students to enjoy the interaction in the lecture room and to be challenged by the intellectual discussion of course material.

At the end of each class that I teach, I would like to have my students remember the following about me as an instructor:

- Take an interest about me as a person and valued my contributions to class discussions.
- Created a conducive environment in the classroom that inspired learning and encouraged individual responsibility

for education.

I am an Academic Advisor and Committee Member for graduate students taking especially Risk Analysis and Modelling and Special problems in Epidemiology courses. Co-Chair 1st Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop 2018 Sponsored by: Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH)

Research Interests and areas of Focus:

- My research interests relate to areas of community centered engagement and I have conducted community-based epidemiologic research studies to address HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases especially in the Black Belt counties of Alabama. I have a broad background in epidemiology, risk analysis and modelling, public health and in biomedical sciences. My epidemiologic research involves the study of a complex set of host, environment, and agent factors as they interact to affect health and diseases in a given population, also in food safety and public health. My research interests in the areas of computational epidemiologic modeling and risk analysis involve and entail development of risk assessments of diseases and pests of plants, animals and humans such as Citrus Canker, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and HIV/AIDS etc., and zoonotic diseases of public health importance. The models and risk assessments are utilized in epidemiologic problem-solving and decision-making processes for human, animal and plant diseases and pests. Additionally, I develop risk assessments both qualitative and quantitative for animal and plant diseases and pests important in the import and export global trade of plants, animals and their products and associated food safety. Examples include the following diseases and pests; FMD, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Classical Swine Fever and Citrus Canker. The risk assessments determine the likelihood of the specific diseases and pests being introduced into the USA through importations of animals, plants and their products like beef, cheese, pork and citrus fruits etc., respectively.



Dr. David Nganwa alias "Daudi" hails originally from Uganda - the Pearl of Africa in East Africa from near the Mountains of the Moon (Mount Rwenzori). He has several siblings and is blessed by a daughter, Gertrude "Gerty" Nganwa a graduate of Auburn University AL.

John C Heath BS. MS. PhD.

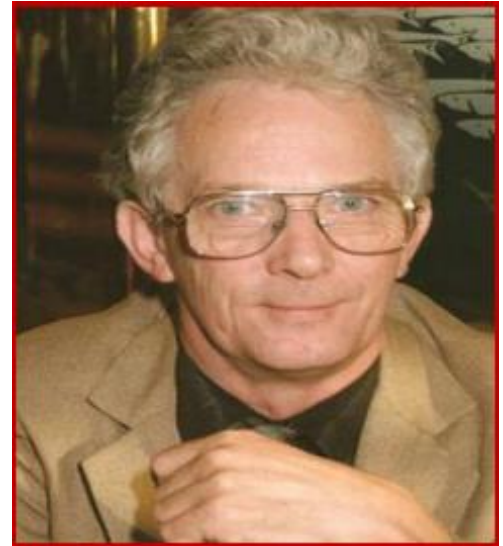
Dr. John Heath is an Experimental Psychologist who has been involved in research for many years bridging psychological concepts of behavior to taxonomic and thematic relational responding, aggression, domestic violence, but particularly environmental insult. One of his major areas of research is the effects of chronic exposure to inorganic and organic mercury, on the fertility rates of males and females. Also, the effects during pubescent development and the motor and cognitive deficits that can occur in the adult and the offspring. Part of this research is looking at the ameliorating effects of a Selenium enhanced diet on mercury toxicity. He developed an operant conditioning procedure for testing the visual system in rodents. This allows us to follow the progression of certain visual functions over the lifetime of the animal without introducing any possible contravening variables. The insult from environmental pollutants is a large public health issue which affects minority populations to a greater degree than majority populations. The environmental injustice that occurs throughout the country produces health risks in minority populations at a greater rate than the general population. Dr. Heath has also been researching Environmental injustice in minority communities. Looking into the effects of possible pollution from a local landfill on a minority population. Dr. Heath regularly works with graduate students as their major professor or as member of a thesis or dissertation committee. He also mentors students and help in areas where they may be having difficulties. He practices a philosophy that says most people are able to achieve at the level they choose. However, none of us are superwomen or supermen and at times need help and assistance. Being able to recognize when we need that assistance and being able to ask for it is not a weakness but an admirable strength.

Dr. Heath has presented his research 47 times at State, National and international conferences as well as being invited to present at both US and UK universities. He has 22 publications in peer reviewed journals



Dr. Heath earned an HNC in mechanical engineering in 1972
He received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Utah State University in 2001
Received his Master of Science degree from Auburn University in experimental psychology in 2003
Was awarded a PhD in experimental psychology with an emphasis on behavioral toxicology in 2008 from Auburn University.
Dr. Heath also has a minor in developmental psychology.

Dr. Heath loves to sail in his 25 ft sailboat. He is also an avid listener of classical music. Together with his wife Yvonne he owns a small company that produces wooden relief carvings.



Dr. John Heath was born in the Town of Southend-on-Sea in the county of Essex in the UK. He moved to the United States in 1977 where he worked as a product design engineer for 25 years. He went back to school in 1996 and earned a BS, MS and A PhD in experimental Psychology. In 1965 his family moved to the Isle of Man which is not part of the United Kingdom or European Union, but has the status of a crown dependency. It has the oldest continuous government in the world dating back to 979ad. He has two sons Paul and Jason and two daughters Dianne and Vanessa.