



## Department of Graduate Public Health



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

### Table of Contents

Message from the Department Head .....	3
--	---

**The DGPH Vision, Mission & Goals..... 5**

**Community Engagement, Service & Advocacy .....7**

    DGPH Programs & Interventions.....7

        Annual Pinning Ceremony.....8

        Rural Health Lecture Series.....9

        Primary Prevention & Data Collection.....12

        Advocacy.....14

        Partnerships with Community Organizations.....16

**Education & Scholarship ..... 18**

    Student Advising & Experiential Learning.....18

    College Activities and Professional Service.....20

    Original Peer-Reviewed Publications.....2

**The DGPH Team.....23**

Dear Dean, Ruby Perry and Colleagues,

Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) ends its third full year in the middle of a global pandemic of the communicable disease COVID-19. While our paradigm is being redefined by the mitigation efforts to halt the person to person spread of the coronavirus Sars-Cov-2, it is my pleasure to share with you an overview of some of the major accomplishments and activities reached during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Admissions for the 2019-20 academic year continued the upward trend in applications and admissions of students to the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP). The GPHP also cleared another hurdle in the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation process by submitting the first draft of the self-study which was developed with the guidance of the external advisory committee. The external advisory board met monthly from January through June to assist in the reviewed of the critical areas in the self-study which were identified for improvement in the consultation process. The focus on making the necessary modifications for accreditation dictated the addition of a new staff position in the department, Assistant Director of Analytics and Career Placement. A successful recruitment effort for the aforementioned position yielded the transition of Ms. Samina Akhter into the role. As a graduate of the program and a longstanding staff member in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Mrs. Akhter has been an immediate asset to the operations of the department.

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 applied practice experiences for students in a participatory manner with community partners.


During the 2019-2020 academic year the DGPH put on several successful events for the purpose of community engagement, student enrichment, advocacy, and health promotion. The Rural Health Lecture Series added the Dr. William “Bill” Jenkins lecture to the series offerings and the first lecture was delivered in the month of April virtually due to restrictions to large gatherings pursuant to the “Safer at Home” Emergency Orders issued by Governor Ivey. The Dr. William “Bill” Jenkins lecture had over 122 participants for the live session and feature the widow of Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Diane Rowley, Dr. Carl Hill, and Dr. Nobel Maseru. The second Dr. Kenneth Olden Lecture was delivered during the One Health Symposium by Dr. Gwen Collum, Director of Extramural Research and Training for the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences in September 2019. The fourth annual pinning ceremony was held in January 2020 with a student challenge delivered by an alumna of the program Ms. Heather Murphy. Faculty members also delivered workshops regionally and internationally, gave poster and keynote presentations at local, national and international conferences and participated in invited lecturer opportunities on campus as well.

Several community partnerships were established to include pipeline development relationships with undergraduate programs in public health. These programs were designed to enrich our research and service-learning opportunities as well as to continue to recruit quality students into the GPHP. The department also enrolled the second PhD, MPH student in the program and the first in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Pathobiology Program.

Included in this annual report is a list of community partners and engagement opportunities that were enhanced and initiated. Lastly during the 2019-2020 academic year the DGPH engaged in the recruitment process for new faculty and administrative support which concluded in an offer to Dr. Melvena Wilson who began her role as a tenure track Assistant Professor in January 2020.

Thank you for your continued 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 while staying focused on our overall mission to prepare the next generation of diverse leadership through research, innovation, advocacy and community engagement.

Best,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Crystal M. James".

Crystal M. James, JD, MPH  
Special Assistant to the President for COVID-19 Recovery  
Head, Department Graduate Public Health  
Director, Graduate Public Health Program  
Associate Professor of Graduate Public Health



# DGPH VISION & MISSION

The vision of the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH), College of Veterinary Medicine and Tuskegee University, is to address health inequities and protect, promote and sustain the public's health

Building upon the legacy of Tuskegee University, the mission of the GPHP is to prepare the next generation of diverse leadership through research, innovation, advocacy and community engagement.



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 Regan 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.



## 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.

# Community Engagement, Service and Advocacy

Challenge Speaker: Ms. Heather Murphy, MPH ‘







## 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.

### Dr. William “Bill” Jenkins lecture series



The Dr. William “Bill” Jenkins lecture is designed to remind students and practitioners of the importance of the public health pipeline and the development of servant leaders. Dr. Jenkins stated “It is the development of servant leaders that will make an impact on health disparities and provide social justice in health care, public health, and health research. It is they who will care more about people than publication. They will ask the hard questions. They will speak for those who are unable to speak for themselves”. The first annual Dr. William “Bill” Jenkins lecture was delivered virtually by a panel of those who knew him best Dr. Diane Rowley (spouse) and Dr. Noble Maseru and two former students Dr. Carl Hill and Atty. Crystal James. The panel discussed “Systemic Racism in the Time of COVID-19”. A link to the full discussion is provided here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnl45YXUk7E&feature=youtu.be>



**Dr. Diane Rowley**

Dr. Diane L. Rowley is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Maternal and Child Health, Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a medical epidemiologist whose research focused on disparities and inequities in pregnancy and infant health outcomes. She collaborated with others to develop a theoretical approach to research and evaluation of health inequities among African American populations.

Dr. Rowley has a broad range of expertise in maternal and child health, publications on pregnancy and infant health, a track record of funded community-based participatory research, and experience in program evaluation.

From 1990 to 1997 she created and directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) research initiative on racial disparities in infant mortality and was the initial manager of the CDC national Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program. Prior to joining the UNC faculty, she was founder and Director of a research center on the social determinants of health disparities at Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA. The center supported undergraduate student-faculty research teams to carry out community based participatory research across the state of Georgia.

Dr. Rowley received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College, completed a pediatrics residency at Virginia Commonwealth University, completed the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service training program and a preventive medicine residency at the CDC. She has a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a Diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, and is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology.





**Dr. Noble Maseru**

Noble A-W Maseru served for more than a decade as health commissioner for the City of Cincinnati Health Department where he oversaw more than 400 employees in seven divisions; seven preventive and primary health care centers; twenty-two school-based health centers; environmental, surveillance, chronic disease prevention and public health preparedness programs; creating healthy communities initiatives; and an annual budget of \$49 million dollars. Maseru devoted his energies to achieving a healthier Cincinnati through establishing strategic partnerships with numerous public, private and grassroots agencies with the overall goal of elevating the department's health equity impact on Cincinnati---particularly vulnerable and underserved populations. Previously, he served as director and health officer for the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion; vice president with the Greater Detroit Area Health Council; Southeast Michigan's leading coalition of business, labor, health care providers, consumers, and government; a consultant with USAID Africa Division; the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; and the faculty at Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work. His work with the Public Health Sciences Institute at Morehouse College to promote academic and research collaboration between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) led to the establishment of the Academy of African American Public Health Programs. Maseru was also the founding director of the Morehouse School of Medicine's Master of Public Health Program.

Maseru's primary research interests are public health policy issues associated with the socioeconomic development of municipalities as it relates to social determinants of health-the Health in All Policies perspective and the public sector's role in achieving health equity for its' citizenry. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, a master's degree in public health from the Emory University School of Medicine, and a doctorate in health policy from Clark Atlanta University.



**Dr. Carl V. Hill**

Dr. Carl V. Hill, started working in public health after graduating in the inaugural Masters of Public Health (MPH) program at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Hill had a strong commitment to public health but was unsure of what to do next to act on this commitment. While he was attending a meeting of the American Public Health Association one of his mentors, Dr. Bill Jenkins, handed him an NMF pamphlet and encouraged him to apply for the doctoral fellowship. Dr. Jenkins, credited for developing the MPH Program at Morehouse School of Medicine, had a vision for young African Americans in public health, which many times included doctoral training. At the time, there were limited opportunities in this field, as few graduate or medical schools offered programs that focused on health equity and social justice for students who were not preparing to become physicians. But the NMF program seemed just right for Carl, so Dr. Jenkins encouraged him to apply.

Dr. Hill's application was duly submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation which hosted the program. He had visited Michigan to play football as an undergrad with Morehouse College, but never imagined returning as a full-time student. With Dr. Jenkins's guidance and a recommendation from NMF Alumna Dr. Helene Gayle—at the time, one of his supervisors at CDC—he was admitted into the W.K. Kellogg Doctoral Fellowship Program in Health Policy and earned his doctorate from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Dr. Hill was able to expand his horizons: not only his portfolio and education, but also the community of people that he worked with to address social determinants of health, an emerging priority at the time. The NMF fellowship provided him not only clarity and direction for his future career, but also the leverage he needed to contribute to efforts that address health disparities.

Dr. Hill currently serves as the Vice-President for Science Engagement at the Alzheimer's Association



**Crystal M. James, JD. MPH**

Attorney James received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Clark Atlanta University, her Master of Public Health degree from Rollin's School of Public Health at Emory University, her Juris Doctorate from University of Houston, and her license to practice law from the State of Georgia, all by the age of twenty-six. Attorney James was mentored by Dr. Bill Jenkins and when after completing her MPH she expressed an interest in health policy for her doctoral pursuits she was encouraged to consider law school instead. Dr. Jenkins contacted to the two persons of color he knew at the time who held the combination of a JD and MPH degree to encourage James to pursue that path. Jenkins indicated that of all of the former Project: IMHOTEP'ers none had this combination of degrees and encouraged James to fill that void by becoming the first. Attorney James previously served as the first executive intern to Dr. Kenneth Olden, the first African American Director of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute for Environment Health Sciences and Program Director of Infectious Diseases and Environmental Health at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Her research interests are in redefining health security in the United States to be inclusive of protection against threats which include protection of vulnerable populations against disease, hunger, repression, poverty reduction, and 'empowerment' of people. More recently, support from the National Science Foundation has formalized research to understand the sources of trusted health messages in the Black community and how Blacks attend to these messages to decrease disease burden related to pandemic COVID-19 disease. Attorney James has been active as a public health professional for more than twenty-four years and a licensed legal advocate for over twenty-two years. She brings this experience to her active engagement as the Special Assistant to President Lily McNair for COVID-19 Recovery and as leader of the COVID-19 Recovery Management Center (CRMC).

## **Dr. Kenneth Olden Lecture**

The second annual Kenneth Olden Lecture as a part of the Rural Health Lecture Series established by the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) in the College of

Veterinary Medicine was delivered during the reporting period. This lecture is held annually by the DGPH and will highlight a scholar and/or advocate in Environmental Health Sciences that has or is currently conducting research and/or advocating for advances that will help to decrease health disparities in rural and other marginalized communities. This lecture series will provide a platform for national, regional, and local trailblazers in the field of Environmental Health to share and display new findings, advocacy, and leadership in the aspect of the One Health Triad that has implications for both human and animal health outcomes. We welcomed, Dr. Kenneth Olden, who delivered the first lecture in the series in September 2018 and agreed to continue to work with the DGPH to identify and secure future trail blazers for the lectures to come.



Dr. Kenneth Olden recently retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he served as Director of the National Center for Environmental Assessment from 2012-2016. He leaves a strong legacy of promoting excellence in environmental health research and chemical risk assessment. Ken started his distinguished career in medical research as a postdoctoral fellow from 1970-1974 in physiology and biochemistry at the Harvard School of Medicine in Boston, MA. He then moved to the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health as a Senior Staff Fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology. In 1977, Ken was promoted to the Rank of Tenured Independent Investigator; becoming the first African American to achieve such a rank in the National Institutes of Health. In 1979, Dr. Olden was appointed Professor in the Department of Oncology and Scientific Director of the Howard University Cancer Center at the Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. Six years later (1985), he was promoted to the position of Director of the Cancer Center and Chair of the Department of Oncology.

From 1991-2005, Dr. Olden was Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was the first African American to become Director of one of the NIH Institutes. In 2005, Ken resigned as Director so he could devote full time to his research and position as Chief of the Metastasis Group in the Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis at the NIEHS. He also held the position of Yerby Visiting Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health for the academic year 2006-2007 and was Founding Dean of the School of Public Health at the City University of New York

from 2008-2012. From 2012-2016, Ken served as Director of the National Center for Environmental Assessment in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



**Dr. Gwen Collman**

Dr. Gwen W. Collman, Director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kenneth Olden Lecture as a part of the One Health Symposium. Dr. Collman in her role at NIEHS directs scientific activities across the field of environmental health sciences including basic sciences (i.e., DNA repair, epigenetics, environmental genomics), organ-specific toxicology (i.e., reproductive, neurotoxicology, respiratory), public health related programs (i.e., environmental epidemiology, environmental public health), and training and career development. She also oversees the implementation of the Superfund Research Program and the Worker Education and Training Program.

Prior to her current role, Collman served in program development and management, beginning in 1992 as a member, then as Chief of the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch. During this time, she directed research on the role of genetic and environmental factors on the development of human disease, from animal models of genetic susceptibility to population studies focusing on etiology and intervention. She was responsible for building the NIEHS grant portfolio in environmental and molecular epidemiology and developed several complex multidisciplinary research programs. These include the NIEHS Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers Program, the NIEHS/EPA Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention, and the Genes, Environment and Health Initiative. Also, under her guidance, a team created a vision for the Partnerships for Environmental Public Health programs for the next decade.

Dr. Collman is the recipient of numerous NIEHS Merit Awards, two NIH Director's Awards, and the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Dr. Collman received a Ph.D. in Environmental Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health where she was awarded the 2009 H.A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Collman's commitment to excellence in the field of public health as well as providing opportunities



for young researchers to receive training in the field of environmental health research exemplified our theme for the symposium *“One Community, One Medicine, One Health”*



## Primary Prevention & Data Collection

Our primary prevention focuses on raising community awareness and promoting healthy lifestyles to our stake holders. Each year the DGPH plays a pivotal role in the planning and implementation of the Annual One Health Symposium. The One Health Symposium provides the entire university community the opportunity to learn and engage one health strategies to decreasing health disparities through interaction with leading professionals in environmental health, animal health and human health.



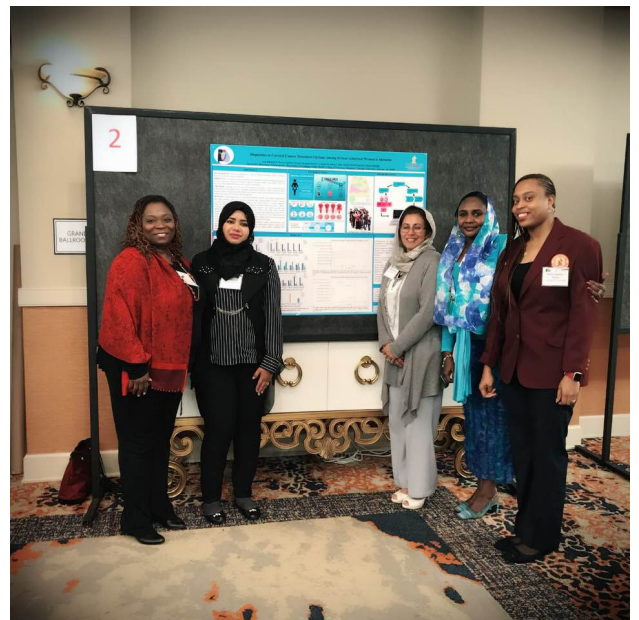
The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual One Health Symposium was opened with a welcome from the University President, Dr. Lilly McNair and Dean Ruby Perry followed by the introduction of the keynote for the morning Dr. Maleeka Glover by first gentleman Dr. George Roberts.





In addition to continuing the funded research of Dr. Abdalla to provide needed Cervical Cancer Awareness workshops in black belt counties of Alabama, the department has the distinction of landing the first National Science Foundation RAPID award to understand the sources of trusted health messages in the Black community and how Blacks attend to these messages to decrease disease burden related to pandemic COVID-19 disease. A novel survey has been developed for deployment in the next academic year to begin to build a data base of trusted sources of public health messages in five black belt southern states.

The DGPH also furthered its collaboration with the Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/ Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program with a successful supplemental application to create the Tuskegee Center for Health & Economic Disparities (THED). The TCHED is poised to provide a focal point for collaboration of health disparities research and outreach among faculty researchers.

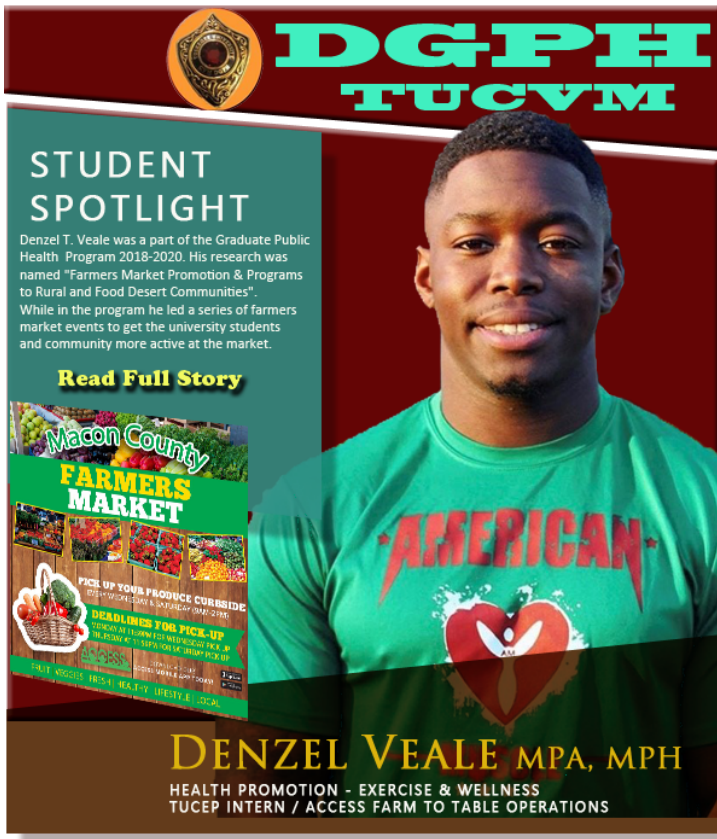




## Advocacy

### Service Learning and Policy Advocacy

The DGPH requires that all students to complete a practicum that originates from a current community need as articulated by the community. During this reporting period student completed practicum experiences with community-based organizations, the extension program and other community partnerships. **Denzel T. Veale** was a part of the Graduate Public Health Program 2018-2020. His research was named "Farmers Market Promotion & Programs to Rural and Food Desert Communities". While in the program he led a series of farmers market events to get the university students and community more active at the market. During this pandemic, he has created a way to promote access to fresh fruits and vegetables through a mobile phone app and curbside pickup system.



### 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.

- Knowledge and Awareness About Cervical Cancer and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Among Women Living in Macon County, AL (Kellon Banks, MPH Student)





## 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.

**Students for Education and Economic Development (SEED)** The idea for Students for Education and Economic Development was born out of a tragedy in 1985 when high school basketball star Ben Wilson was murdered in the streets of Chicago.

The late Rev. James Bevel and his colleagues prayed about a solution to the increasing violence among young people and determined that proper education and economic development opportunities were the missing element in these children's lives. These are the roots of the first SEED organization.

The second generation of SEED Inc was incorporated by Scott and Erica Muhammad in Alabama in 2010; they currently serve as co-directors of the organization. They have run organic agriculture camps for children since 2001 in Illinois and Alabama.

**Mission:** We are committed to making man (male and female) in the image and likeness of God by teaching students how to become economically independent and institutionally sovereign. To that end, we dedicate our resources to:

- Delivering high-quality, project-based service learning, beginning with agriculture and industry;
- Providing innovative economic opportunities for participants, with a focus on low-income communities;
- Partnering with others in the community to improve educational and economic opportunities;
- Advancing the scientific education of children at the public policy level

**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.

**The Movement 46 (TM46)**-Springing forth from the momentum of the community galvanization around the T-100 competition, TM46 recognized the legacy that Tuskegee/Macon County has which can be critical to the revitalization and mobilization of the community in coordination with public officials. Borrowing from the name of an organization that had been previously developed by one of the organizers, the group settled on "The Movement" which is indicative of action, collaboration, and growth. The number 46 is the state vehicle number for Macon County and denotes the geographical parameters in which the group would focus their efforts. TM46 meets weekly to discuss, plan, educate and collaborate for the uplift of the community.

## EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP

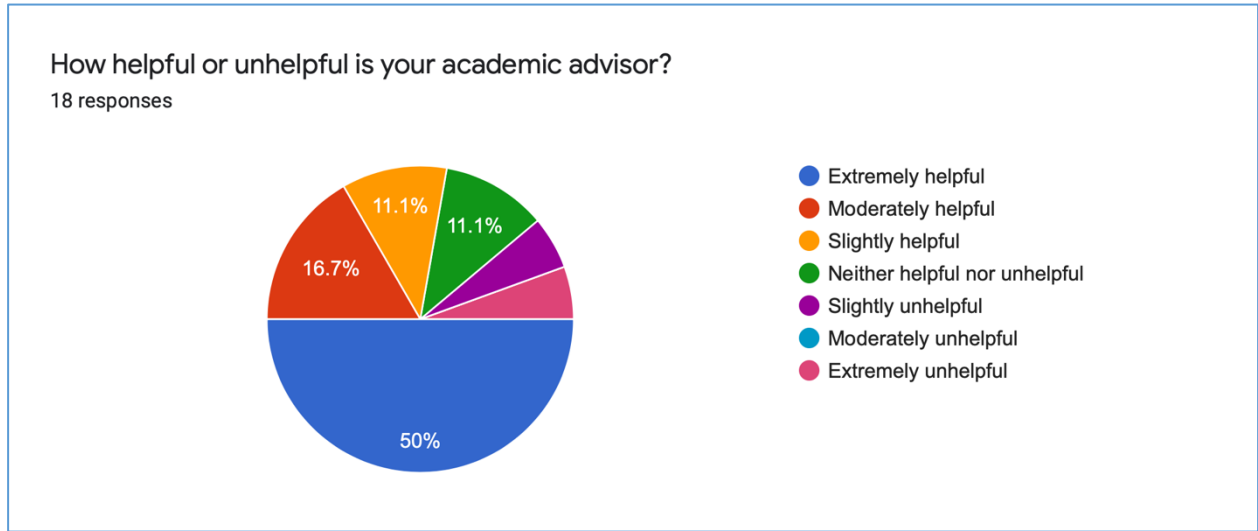
### Student Advising & Experiential learning

#### Student Profiles:

All students are provided with academic support to attain a set of core competencies and applied learning experiences to prepare them for the workplace. All didactic course assignments and learning experiences of built on 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 require 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 GPHP. These pairings are within 10 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 student logbook 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.

2020 Survey Results

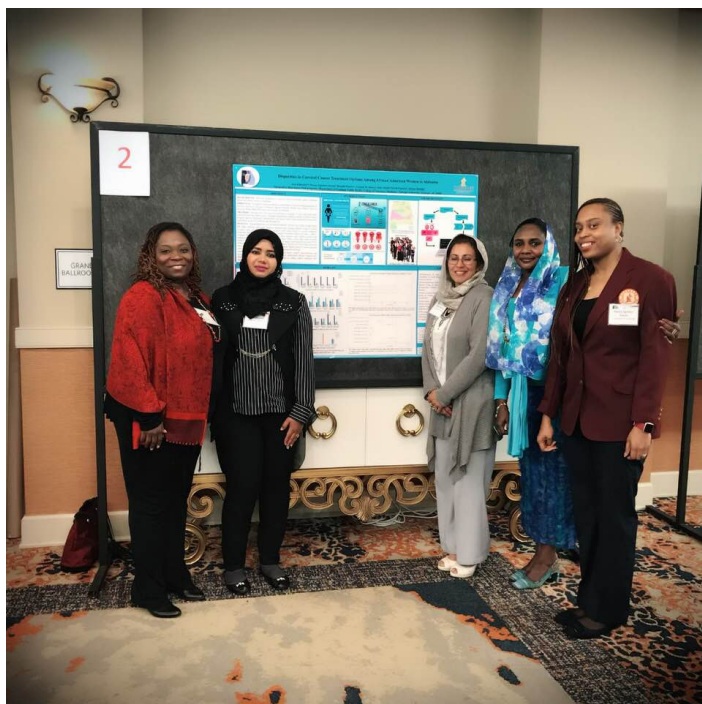


Experiential Learning Opportunities are sought out and cultivated by faculty and staff of the DGPH to assist in translating the mission and vision of the program to public health practice. Each student is required, as delineated in the DGPH student handbook<sup>1</sup> to complete an experiential learning 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.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Appendix G: DGPH Student handbook updated August 2019

<sup>2</sup> Appendix H: DGPH Mentoring Plan





Seeking to enhance the skills of students receiving the Doctor of Philosophy in core science fields to translate those findings into public health practice a dual degree program was piloted with the Integrative Biosciences Program last academic year. The successes and lessons learned during the pilot year allowed this effort to be expanded to incorporate the Interdisciplinary Pathobiology program. Mr. Ronald Peaster a PhD student in the Integrative Biosciences Program was the first student to engage the blended curriculum. Ms. Atiya Shahid a PhD student in Interdisciplinary Pathobiology is the first student to pilot the blending of the curriculum for this collaboration.



# 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

- Special Assistant to the President for COVID-19 Recovery
- General Counsel, Historically Black Colleges & Universities- Law Enforcement Executive Assoc.
- Member CVM Academic Appeals Committee
- Member, DGPH Curriculum Committee
- Member, DGPH Research Committee
- Member Auburn Univ./Tuskegee Univ. subgroup
- 2020 APHA Conference Abstract Reviewer
- Submitted Self-study for Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
- Academic Advisor to all GPH students and following PhD candidates
  - Co-Mentor- 1 Integrative Biosciences Program & Graduate Public Health Program Student
  - Dissertation Committee Member- Univ. Georgia PhD Student successfully defended Oct. 2020
- Co-Chair 20<sup>th</sup> Annual One Health Symposium (September 2019)
- Co-Chair 21<sup>st</sup> Annual One Health Symposium (October 2020)
- Public Health Media Coverage and National Panel Discussions:
  - *Tuskegee University's Public Health Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (Aired on Black News Channel April 28, 2020)*
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Dn1FhIYC-g&t=64s>
  - *Rural Health Lecture Series: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual William "Bill" Jenkins Lecture (April 22, 2020)*
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnl45YXUk7E&feature=youtu.be>
  - *Virtual Community Meeting: Decoding COVID19 Race Data (April 16, 2020)*
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbhFchx\\_B7M&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbhFchx_B7M&feature=youtu.be)
- Presentations and Video Recordings to the Tuskegee University and Stakeholders
  - Public Health Roadmap Video
    - <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Tuskegee-University-Reopening-Plans--Public-Health.html?soid=1116744676021&aid=9mhFk9t9IQk>
  - COVID-19 Presentations
    - Updates to Community Based and Faith Based Organizations
    - Parent & Student Forums hosted by Tuskegee University Student Affairs
    - Developed and Conducted COVID-19 Policies & Procedures Implementation Table-Top Exercises to Tuskegee University Colleges & Schools (Summer & Fall 2020)

- Weekly Tuskegee University Board of Trustee COVID-19 Updates
- Attorney James also delivered the following presentations during the reporting period:
  - *“Repatriation of the Diaspora through STEM and Sport Technology”* Panel Discussion at symposium entitled: Building the Africa We Want, Ambassador’s Breakfast & Dialogue, Nigerian Consulate, New York, NY (March 2020)
  - *“Cervical Cancer: A Public Health Perspective”* Presentation 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop Theme: Creating Hope Through Awareness, Lowndes County, Alabama (August 2019)
  - *“Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders with Priorities and Practices of Yesterday-Assessing the Academy”* Black Ladies in Public Health Summit (July 2019)
  - *“Evaluation of Assessment Strategies: Case studies in public policy and their utility in preparing students for real world policy processes”* Presentation at International Public Policy Association Conference Concordia University Montreal, Canada (June 2019)
  - *“Evaluation of Assessment Strategies: Case Studies in Public Policy and their Utility in Preparing Students for Real World Policy Processes”* International Public Policy Association Annual Meeting Montreal, Canada (June 2019)

### 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.
- Dr. Webb also provided the following services during the reporting period:
  - Draft response to RO1 grant proposal entitled **“Using a Simulation Model of Complex Interactions and Influences to Understand the Relationship between HIV, HPV and Cervical Cancer in the BBCs of Alabama”**, in collaboration with other Colleges at TU and submitted to the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute
- Presentation on ***The Caribbean and the Diaspora Response to COVID-19..... and What’s Next.*** at the Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Coalition (June 2020).



## Ehsan Abdalla, DVM, MSc., PhD

- Dr. Abdalla provided the following services to the College of Veterinary Medicine during the reporting period
  - Chair of the search committee member of the faculty interview in the Department of Graduate Public, 2019
  - Committee member of the Department of Graduate Public Health Recruiting Committee
  - Member of Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TUCBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Tuskegee University, Tuskegee AL, USA
- Dr. Abdalla also conducted the following services to the community during the reporting period
  - Hosted Cervical Health Awareness Month Celebration in collaboration with Macon M.E.A.N.S For Cancer Support Group was held in Cooperative Extension Office in Macon County of Alabama, sponsored by Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TUCBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH) (CBR/RCMI U54 grant number MD007585), (January 27, 2020)
  - Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop was held in Lowndes County of Alabama, sponsored by Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TUCBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH) (CBR/RCMI U54 grant number MD007585), (September 24, 2019)
  - Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop was held in Bullock County of Alabama, sponsored by Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TUCBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH) (CBR/RCMI U54 grant number MD007585), (August 26, 2019)
- Dr. Abdalla also delivered the following presentations (Oral/PowerPoint) during the reporting period
  - **Abdalla Ehsan\***, Tsegaye Habtemariam, Souleymane Fall, Roberta Troy, Berhanu Tameru, David Nganwa. Study of Cervical Cancer Using A Quantitative Risk Assessment. RCMI 2019 National Conference on Collaborative Solutions to Improve Minority Health and Reduce Health Disparities. Nashville, Bethesda, MD, ABSTRACT #21.01.001 (December 15–17, 2019)
  - **Ehsan Abdalla\***. Attended and presented my specific aims of the K01 grant proposal entitled *“HPV/Cervical Cancer in HIV Infected Women, Living in the Alabama”* in at Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) Translational Training Symposium, was held Hilton Hotel in Gulf Shores, AL, USA (November 14-15, 2019)
  - Guest Speaker: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parent and Family Institute and Back to School Bash “Partnerships: Parents. Families. Schools. Communities”. The event was held on August 26, 2019 in Bullock County of Alabama and was hosted by The Cancer Outreach Component of the U54 School District (August 3, 2019)
  - Keynote Speaker: Address stakeholders about our annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop at Lowndes County Extension/Tuskegee University Extension Office Grassroots Meeting.

- Professional Service, the following services during the reporting period
    - A scientific Review panel Member, The Frontiers Journal (June 12, 2020)
    - A scientific Review panel Member, CDC - Preventing Chronic Disease Journal (February 20, 2020)
    - Member of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Center for AIDS Research (July 2019)
    - Member of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), USA
- Continuing Education and Certification during the reporting period
  - **Certification** on Youth Mental Health First Aid USA. It was 8-hour course offered by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Missouri Department of Mental Health (February 29, 2020)
  - **Certification** on FileMaker Pro 15/16 Basic. It was two days training offered by Certstaffix Training in Georgia, USA (July 9-10, 2019)
- Advising: Research (Summary) during the reporting period
  - 2 doctoral dissertation committee
  - 1 doctoral dissertation committee (Chaired)
  - 4 master's thesis committees (3 chaired)
  - 1 undergraduate CRISP (Cancer Research Immersion Summer Program) student mentoring committee (Chaired)
- Research/Extension: Ongoing and Awarded during the reporting period
  - Source: Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions Program at the National Institute of Health (TU CBR/RCMI-NIH: CBR/RCMI U54 grant number MD007585 Pilot project) 04/09/2018 – 04/30/2021  
Title: A Comprehensive Study on Cervical Cancer Awareness among African American Women Living in Bullock, Barbour and Lowndes Black Belt Counties of Alabama  
Principal Investigator (PI): Abdalla, Ehsan.
  - Cochran Fellowship Program entitled “Laboratory and Diagnostic Training for Animal Health and Food Safety Officials from Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, WTO, SPS and TBT Team”. Submitted June 28, 2020 to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service: The ID assigned: USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-20-0002  
Co-PI: Abdalla, Ehsan.

### Melvena Wilson, DrPH, MPH, CHES

Dr. Wilson serves as an Assistant Professor in the Dept Graduate Public Health, and has provided the following services during the reporting period

- Chair, Departmental Research Committee
- Member of the CEPH self-study committee
- Co-Chair Recruitment Committee
- Academic Advisor
- Co-Chair Annual One Health Symposium
- Creating Safe Spaces for ActiveMinds Grant team member

- CVM Public Health Advisory Committee Co-chair
- Guest Editor Frontiers in Public Health
- Member AU/TU subgroup
- APHA Abstract Reviewer
- APHA Moderator and Co-Host October 2020
- Panel Discussion/Presentations
  - APHA -PHEHP panel discussion Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> Topic Health Educators Leading a Way to a Post COVID-19 World
  - NOVA- Women's Summit 2020 June – Panelist Getting Real on Race
  - Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.- Blue Room Discussion – Health Equity Moderator
  - Presenter – Let's Talk Advocating for Good Health - How to Speak to your Provider
  - Panelist – Ethical Leadership Panel on COVID-19

### Asseged Dibaba, DVM, MSc.

- USDA Risk Analysis grant (Grant # AP18IS000000C003); (Acct #: 30-22650103-72320) (extended to 2020/21 FY due to COVID-19 pandemic).
- Serving as admission committee member (Department of GPH, CVM, TU)
- Serving as a graduate committee member for graduate student



## Rueben C. Warren, DDS, MPH, DrPH, M.Div

- Speaker: Meharry SNDA Region 5 Retreat: The Student National Dental Association: A Clarification of its Beginnings and Direction For The Future: Atlanta, GA, January 19, 2019.
- Speaker: International Meeting on Roles, Responsibilities and the Future Care of Older Adults: Care Ethics and the Elderly: Surrey University, Surrey, London June 19-22, 2019.
- Speaker: XXXVI<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Law and Mental Health: Enhancing Black Participation in Clinical Trials in the United States: Rome, Italy, July 20-27, 2019.
- Speaker: 2nd All Africa Clinical Trials Summit: Enhancing Participation in Clinical Trials Among African Americans in the United States: Lessons Learned for Enhancement of Clinical Trials in Global Black Populations. Cape Town, South Africa, August 16-18, 2019.
- Speaker: ACD 2019 Annual Meeting and Convocation, Topic: Spheres of Ethics Outside of the “office” Drive What We Do In and Outside of the Profession, Hilton Union Square Hotel, San Francisco, CA, September 4-8, 2019.
- Speaker: International Cancer Education Conference, Topic: An Ethics Lens on Education about Cancer or Cancer Education, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 18-20, 2019.
- Speaker: 100 Years Anniversary OMEGA, Meharry Medical College Topic: Health Disparities or What? Nashville, TN, October 10-13, 2019.
- Speaker: APHA 2019 Annual Meeting & Expo, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Moderator for The Closing General Session, Philadelphia, PA, November 2-6, 2019.
- Speaker: AAMC Annual Meeting, Phoenix Convention Center Topic: Repairing the Breach: Medical Research's Legacy in Minority Communities, Phoenix, AZ, November 8-12, 2019.
- Speaker: Mobley-Singleton Lecture, Meharry Medical College Topic: Health Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nashville, TN, February 7, 2020.
- Speaker: AABSS Conference, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conferences, Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel, Topic: Overcoming Trauma-Building Trust and Trustworthiness, Las Vegas, NV, February 24-25, 2020.

## Original Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Bogale Dibaba, Asseged**, Kriek, Nick P. J., Thoen, Charles O. (Editors). Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective. Springer Nature, Switzerland AG.

**Dibaba, B. Asseged**, C.J. Daborn, S. Cadmus, A. Michel (2019). The Current Status of Bovine Tuberculosis in Africa. In **Dibaba et al.** (eds.). Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective. Springer Nature. Switzerland. pp 15-30.

**Dibaba, B. Asseged**, C. J. Daborn (2019). Epidemiology of Bovine Tuberculosis in Africa. In Dibaba et al. (eds.). Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective. Springer Nature, Switzerland AG. pp 89-126.

Muthuma, Evans, **Dibaba, B. Asseged** (2019). The risk of introduction of swine vesicular disease virus into Kenya via natural sausage casings imported from Italy. Preventive Veterinary Medicine. Volume 169. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2019.104703>.

**James, M. Crystal** “Evaluation of Assessment Strategies: Case Studies in Public Policy and their Utility in Preparing Students for Real World Policy Processes” International Public Policy Association Annual Meeting Montreal, Canada (June 2019) *Accepted*

Webb, L. **James, C.**, Abdalla, E., Sodeke, S., Alexander, A., Elhussain, I., Lee, C. “Evaluating Tuskegee University’s Ongoing Response Strategy to Mitigate Direct and Indirect Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic by using an Integrative Framework Analysis” *Journal of Healthcare, Science and The Humanities*. *Accepted (June 2020)*

**Ehsan Abdalla**; Tsegaye Habtemariam; Roberta Troy; Souleymane Fall; Berhanu Tameru; **David Nganwa** (2019). A comparative study of health disparities in Cervical Cancer Mortality Rates through time between Black and Caucasian women in Alabama and the US". Submitted and accepted for publication to the International Journal of Studies in Nursing. In press.

**Ehsan Abdalla\***, Roberta Troy Souleymane Fall, Isra Elhussin, Oyoyo Egiebor-Aiwan and **David Nganwa\***. Racial Differences in 5-year Relative Survival of Cervical Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis, between African American (Blacks) and White women, living in the State of Alabama, USA. Submitted for publication in the **BioMed Central Journal Cancer (BMC)**, on April 11, 2019, ID: BCAN-D-19-01097R1.

Batbold S, Ellis R, Katz RV, **Warren RC**. Review of the Captain America graphic novel 'TRUTH: Red, White and Black' focusing on parallels with the infamous USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. *ScienceDirect*, February 8, 2019.

**Warren, R.C.**, Horenstein, L., & Heard, T.V. Majority. Individual Perspectives of Majority/Minority Partnerships: Who Really Benefits and How? *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* Vol. 30, No. 1, February 2019.

**Warren, R.C.** Ethics and Well-Being: Ages 45-64: 70 is the New 50. *Journal of Healthcare, Science and The Humanities*, Vol. XI, No 1, p 38. Summer 2019.

**Warren, R.C.**, Shedlin, M.G., Alama-Mensah, E., Obasaju, C., Hodge, D. Clinical Trials Participation Among African Americans and the Ethics of Trust: Leadership Perspectives. *Journal of Ethics Medicine and Public Health*, *Accepted*

Gallagher, A., **Warren, R. C.**, Hodge, D. Reparation, Bill Jenkins and a Legacy of Courage. *Nursing Ethics An International Journal For Health Care Professionals*, *Accepted*.

Ramos, S. R., **Warren, R.**, Shedlin, M., Melkus, G., Kershaw, T., Vorderstrasse, A. A Framework for Using eHealth Interventions to Overcome Medical Mistrust Among Sexual Minority Men of Color Living with Chronic Conditions. *Behavioral Medicine*, 45:2, 166-177, <https://doi.org/10.1080/08964289.2019.1570074>.

**Warren, R.C.**, Clayborne, C., & Weidman, M. (2019). Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. 50 Events that Shaped African American History, (pp. 301).

**Warren, R. C.**, Shedlin, M. G, Alema-Mensah, E., Obasaju, C., & Hodge Sr., D. (2019). *Clinical trials participation among African Americans and the ethics of trust: Leadership perspectives*. *ScienceDirect*, p. 10, 128-138, August 11, 2019.

**Warren, R. C.** Clare, C. A., Villanueva, and Pinn, V.W. (2020) In the Interest of Science or Humanity: J. Marion Sims Was Wrong Then and Now! **Journal of the National Medical Association**. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnma.2020.01.002>. February 27, 2020.

Braithwaite, R., & Warren, R. (2020). The African American Petri Dish. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

## 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 hometown. She has two siblings and is the mother to one daughter, Zora S. James who is a Junior 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

- Head, Department Graduate Public Health
- Special Assist. to Pres. For COVID-19
- Director, Graduate Public Health Program
- Member, Executive Leadership Council College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
- *Academic Advisor for all GPH students*
- Co-Chair One Health Symposium 2018
- Member, CVM Safety Committee
- Member, CVM Diversity Committee
- Board Member, Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation
- Assistant to President & General Counsel, HBCU Law Enforcement Executives Association

## Research Interests & Foci:

- Sources of trusted health messages for COVID-19 among African Americans
- 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

# 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

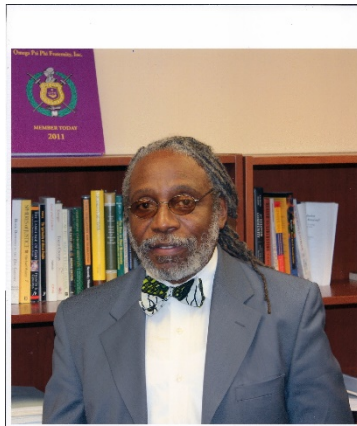
- Earned a DVM degree in Veterinary Science from Faisal Abad Agriculture University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pakistan, in 1993
- Earned a Master of Veterinary Science degree (Field of Study: Veterinary Pathology) from Faisal Abad Agriculture University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pakistan 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Office: 44-325 John Kenney Hall. Phone:334-727-8086. Email:azekeri@tuskegee.edu**

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.

## 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. Dr. Heath also has research interest in gun ownership and suicide rates in Alabama. 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

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.



### Overview:

It has been my pleasure to join the faculty in the Department of Graduate Public Health this academic year. I have worked hard to learn the culture and move the goals and mission of the GPHP forward since being added to this diverse team. I look forward to building new alliances on campus and within the College to ensure that our application for accreditation of this vital program is successful.

### EDUCATION

Doctor of Public Health –  
12/2009  
Florida A & M University  
Behavioral Science and Health  
Education

Master of Public Health -  
5/2002  
University of Florida  
Community Health Education

Certificate of Global Health 5-  
2019  
University of Alabama –  
Birmingham

### RESEARCH INTERST

- Health Disparities and Inequity

A Georgia Peach, raised in the Florida Sunshine, I call Fort Walton Beach, FL my home. And enjoy spending time with my family and friends hanging out at the beach and providing community service with my Sorority.

### Teaching

Courses coordinated and/or lectured in this

academic year:

- Public Health - Coordinator
- Multivariate Methods - Coordinator
- Seminar II: Special Topics Environmental Law-Co-Lead
- Program Planning and Evaluation – Co-Lead

- Health Education and Communication – Coordinator
- Health Disparities
- Psychosocial Determinants of Health
- Thesis Research

### Research & Presentations

Articles Published, Creation of New Courses, Grant Applications:

- Submission of NSF RAPID COVID 19 grant as Co-PI - FUNDED
- Submission of HRSA SDS grant as contributing author
- Creation of new Seminar course: contributing author
- Submission of Truth Grant – PI
- Submission ADPH Mental Health Grant - FUNDED

### Presentations:

- Co-Presenter COVID 19 Virtual Community Meeting series

### Service

- *Chair, GPHP Grants committee*
- *Member, GPHP Admissions Committee*
- *Chair, GPHP Recruitment Committee*
- *Academic Advisor, Christian Parker (2019 cohort)*

### Other Activities

- Participated in annual pinning ceremony for GPHP students
- Created promotional material for program
- Co-Editor for special issue of Frontier of Public Health Journal
- APHA activities including Section Secretary-elect CHHPD, PHEPH member, Annual Conference reviewer and moderator.

# Samina Akhter MPH, MSc. (Hons), BSc. (Hons), CS Certification

Samina Akhter is an Assistant Director of Analytics and Career Placement at the Department of Graduate Public Health, Tuskegee University joined in May 2020. She has been working as a System Analyst & Database Manager at the College of Veterinary Medicine since last twenty years at Tuskegee University. Samina Akhter has a strong diversified experience in Information Technology, public health, data infrastructure on environmental hazards that affect distressed and under-served communities with people of color in Alabama, and graduate public health engagement and educational preparation for research, the generation of data on environmental pollutants in rural settings, and benefits of finding to help the community members as stakeholders. Participation in a framework of One Health in which there is a critical link between humans, animals and the environment. This intricate linkage often affects all aspects of human well-being, whether in communities of practice, children's health, and the overall health of the population.

**Graduate Research Topic:** Framing an Environmental Risk Analysis Pathway For Cancer Health Disparities in Black Belt Counties of Alabama.



## Education

- Earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Honors Punjab University in 1987
- Earned a Master of Science in Analytical Chemistry Honors from Punjab University in 1991
- Earned a Computer Programming Associate degree 1998
- Earned Master of Science degree in Public Health from Tuskegee University in 2019

## Hobbies: Cooking, Travelling, Reading



Samina Akhter is originally from Pakistan. She is US citizen. She has three daughters, Sana, Mehvish and Amber. Sana is graduated from AU in health administration and business minor, Mehvish is industrial engineer with supply chain minor working with US census in DC, and Amber is in AU student in accounting and finance. Samina has been living in State for 30 years and with Mother Tuskegee almost 20 years. Proud to be with Tuskegee.

## Skills:

- Strong computer knowledge: Windows XP, Windows NT, Macintosh, MS-Office, Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Adobe Dreamweaver CS4,

Adobe Photoshop CS4, Adobe Photoshop 2020, Adobe InDesign 2020, Adobe Fireworks CS4, Adobe Illustrator CS4, Swish Zoon Flash Animations, Visual Studio, XML, C++, C Sharp, Java/Scripts, Visual Basics, COBOL/400, Q-Basics, RPG, Meidasite Editor/Recorder,

- Instructional design using HTML, CSS, Dreamweaver, Fireworks
- Webpage design, content manager
- Administrator social media Facebook, Twitter pages
- Data extraction using Excel and applied knowledge to the use of Alabama Vital Statistics and many other databases

## •SAS

9.4 software and @Risk software used for analysis of infectious disease such as polio and chronic disease such as cancer, and environmental health related to carcinogenic pollutants

- Capable to face challenging tasks
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal ability
- Excellent strategic knowledge
- Capability to perform health related research
- Applied skill for quantitative analysis in Epidemiology (measure of disease frequency), sampling techniques
- GIS: ArcMap 1.6, Extracting data, selection by location, selection by attributes, selection by features, symbology, spatial selection, unique values, normalization, and classification techniques

## Academic, Scientific, Research Groups and Community Service:

- Invited Speaker at the War on Murder Begins (WOMB) Conference at Booker T. Washington



- High School, on April 25-28, 2019 Tuskegee, Alabama. Gave presentation entitled “Chemicals Found in Common Household Cleaners Can Cause Cancer”. The Conference was hosted by SEED, Inc. and the Jubilee Encores, Tuskegee, Alabama.
- Macon County Diabetic Association at the GreenWood Baptist Church providing support as a partner for making diabetic group interventions.
- 2019 Alabama was held at the State Capital House in Montgomery Alabama.
- Engagement in Community Outreach by working with the Macon County Diabetic Association at the GreenWood Baptist Church.
- Involvement in working with the Students for Education and Economic Development (SEED Inc.) and presenting a conference paper.



