



NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE TO END **RACE-BASED MEDICINE**

Hosted at the **Charles H. Wright Museum
of African American History**

OCTOBER 17-18, 2025 | DETROIT, MICHIGAN



***Transforming healthcare
and public health for equity:
reclaiming science, rehumanizing
care and restoring justice***

A LETTER FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE TO END RACE-BASED MEDICINE ORGANIZERS

Dear Attendees,

The Wayne State University School of Medicine’s North American Conference to End Race-Based Medicine is being held in October 2025 at The Charles Wright Museum of African American History. This inaugural event, borne out of the Detroit End Race-based Medicine Taskforce (D-ERBMT), will bring together healthcare professionals, policy makers, community and industry leaders, and students across various disciplines and sectors to examine the flaws of race-based medicine and advance health equity.

We hope that you join us in building the movement to end race-based medicine in clinical practice, education, research, and policy and create equitable and rigorous care systems and clinical algorithms

Sincerely,

Ijeoma Nnodim Opara, M.D., FAAP, FAIM
Latonya A. Riddle-Jones, M.D., MPH
Seun Ross, DNP, MS, CRNP-F, NP-C

Clinical Transformation

- Audit of race-based metrics (eGFR, PFTs)
- Transition to race-neutral clinical tools
- Develop race-conscious frameworks

DETROIT END RACE- BASED MEDICINE TASKFORCE

Educational Reform

- Curriculum revision
- Faculty and learner workshops
- Critical race theory in medicine

Community Engagement

- “Race” and “Tell your story” initiative
- Community health workers as leaders
- Bidirectional learning (Community and Academia)
- Eliminating racism embedded in the science of clinical care to promote health equity and justice

Policy and Advocacy

- Coalition building
- (National and Canadian orgs)
- Health equity advocacy tools
- Legislative partnerships

The taskforce is supported by Dean Wael Sakr, M.D.; the Michigan State Medical Society Taskforce to Advance Health Equity; the Health Equity and Justice in Medicine initiative at the School of Medicine and the Detroit Medical Center; and the WSU Department of Internal Medicine.



Ijeoma Nnodim Opara, M.D., FAAP, FAIM
Co-chair, Detroit End Race-Based Medicine Taskforce
WSU School of Medicine



Latonya A. Riddle-Jones, M.D., MPH
Co-chair, Detroit End Race-Based Medicine Taskforce
WSU School of Medicine



Seun Ross, DNP, MS, CRNP-F, NP-C
Co-chair, North American Conference to End Race-Based Medicine

WHAT IS RACE-BASED MEDICINE?

Race-based medicine is a harmful practice rooted in the false and racist notion that people of different races have distinct biological and genetic makeup. This belief leads healthcare providers to apply different medical standards and treatments based on race, often resulting in poorer health outcomes for Black individuals. For instance, formulas used to assess kidney, lung, and heart function may be biased, perpetuating racial disparities in healthcare.

Race-based medicine utilizes the oppressive and unjust perception of colonists to weaponize the inherently racist system to justify racial disparities in health outcomes.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The North American Conference to End Race-Based Medicine (NACERM) is a groundbreaking convening dedicated to transforming the foundations of health, medicine, and medical education. Guided by the call to Reclaim Science, Restore Justice, and Rehumanize Care, NACERM brings together diverse clinicians, researchers, educators, policymakers, industry leaders, students, and community advocates across all sectors of society who are committed to building a new paradigm for equity and evidence.

GOALS

This task force aims to undo the centuries-long legacy of scientific racism embedded into current clinical algorithms which include, but are not limited to nephrology (estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) or kidney function), pulmonology (Pulmonary Function Test (PFT), Pulse Oximetry), cardiology (Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk calculator), pharmacology (race-based therapeutics), etc.

DETROIT END RACE-BASED MEDICINE TASKFORCE INITIATIVES

The Detroit End Race Based Medicine Taskforce (D-ERBMT) is a diverse interprofessional coalition of clinicians, legislators, healthcare systems, administrators, industry leaders, and community members passionate about eliminating racism embedded in the science of clinical care. D-ERBMT seeks to systematically prevent the unnecessary and premature death of Black patients by ending race-based medicine through education, research, and advocacy.

- Educational and community-building town halls for university, healthcare, public health, and community
- Workshops for advocacy: clinical interactions, media engagement, legislation, community organizing, and institutional leadership
- Tool development for advocacy and institutional, educational, and clinical practice change
- Community Voice Story Project - Audio, Video, Text

DETROIT END RACE-BASED MEDICINE TASKFORCE CALLS TO ACTION

- 1 Learn more about race-based medicine. But, to learn, you must un-learn all you have been taught about race being biological.
- 2 Lend your voice by sharing your stories of experiencing, witnessing, or participating in race-based medicine with the Detroit End Race-Based Medicine Taskforce. Our stories are powerful catalysts for change. Join our townhall events.
- 3 Lead change by using your voice and power to engage with your sphere of influence (family, friends, neighborhood, place of worship, work, school, c-suite, etc.) to teach, organize, and advocate to end Race-Based Medicine. It can start as simply as asking: "Is Race-Based Medicine happening here?" visit us at detroiterbm.org

If the public health crisis that is racism is a wildfire, medical racism is the kindling and race-based medicine is the gasoline. To allow it continue is to permit state sanctioned medical malpractice and perpetuate violence on Black bodies. This is an urgent patient safety and quality priority. We cannot allow one more life to be harmed when it is so preventable and unnecessary.

Dr. Ijeoma Nnodim
Opara



AGENDA: 2025 NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE TO END RACE-BASED MEDICINE



DAY 1 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

12:30 – 2:30 p.m......[Trustees' Boardroom]

Community Advisory Council Reception

Gathering of community leaders, advocates, and organizers shaping the movement. Invitation-only.

3 – 3:15 p.m......[Wright Community Gallery]

Welcome, Introduction, and Conference Overview

A primer on the harms of race-based medicine and the imperative for race-conscious, justice-oriented care.

3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m......[Wright Community Gallery]

Coalition Panel: Building Power Across the Continent

Multi-site panel presentation and Q&A session featuring key coalitions:

- Detroit End Race-Based Medicine Task Force (D-ERBMTF)
- Regional Coalition to Eliminate Race-Based Medicine, Philadelphia
- Institute for Healing Justice in Medicine (IHJM)
- Encoding Equity Alliance (EEA)
- Coalition to End Racism in Clinical Algorithms (CERCA)
- White Coats for Black Lives (WC4BL)

5:25 – 5:55 p.m......[Wright Community Gallery]

Canada–U.S. Dialogue: Race Correction in Context

A comparative discussion of racialization in health across national borders.

Topics include:

- Race and medicine in apartheid, colonial, and capitalist states
- Narratives, language, and the role of narrative medicine
- The global health diaspora and the UN Decade for People of African Descent
- Artificial intelligence, digital equity, and the call for a new health and tech decade

5:55 – 6 p.m......[Wright Community Gallery]

Preview of Day Two and Closing Reflections

6 – 8 p.m......[Ford Freedom Rotunda]

Evening Celebration

Enjoy music, connection, and cocktails with a live DJ. Museum exhibits around the reception will be open for self-guided tours.

DAY 2 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

7:30 – 8:15 a.m. [Wright Community Gallery]

Breakfast and Networking

8:30 – 8:50 a.m. (no cme) [General Motors Auditorium]

Opening Welcome and Community Roll Call

Acknowledging all who have made this work possible.

8:50 – 9 a.m. (no cme) [General Motors Auditorium]

Ceremony of Honor: Libations and Legacy Tribute

Speaker: Gwen Winston

Acknowledging the lives lost.

9 – 9:15 a.m. (no cme) [General Motors Auditorium]

Pre-note: Holding the Center While Pushing the Edges

Speaker: Aaron Baugh, M.D.

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Lundy Braun.

9:15 – 10 a.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Keynote Address: Race-Based vs. Racism-Conscious Medicine

Speaker: Jessica Cerdena, M.D., Ph.D.

Reflection on resistance, imagination, and the courage to move beyond reform toward transformation.

10 – 11 a.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Race-Based Medicine in Practice: Updates and Challenges

Speaker: Darshali Vyas, M.D.

Spotlight on clinical disciplines and research

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Policy in Focus: Title IX, OCR 1557, and Regulatory Levers

A deep dive into current policy efforts and legal strategies

Moderator: Seun Ross, DNP

Speaker: Andrew Twinamastiko JD, Juyoun Han JD

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. [Ford Freedom Rotunda]

Lunch and Community Poster Presentations

A guided tour of a limited number of exhibits will be offered at this time

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Stakeholder Implementation Panel: Stakeholder Panel

Moderator: Jarrett Weinberger, M.D.

Speakers: Seun Ross, DNP, Ricky Grisson M.D., Joseph Graves Ph.D., Karen Edwards, Juyoun Han JD, Ijeoma Nnodim Opara M.D.

How do we make equity real? Strategies for implementation and accountability.

- Education
- Research
- Health Policy
- Payers
- Government
- Community Organizing
- Clinical Practice

2:40 – 2:50 p.m.

Joy and Mindfulness Break

Rest. Reflect. Reground.

2:50 – 3:50 p.m. [Various locations]

Small Group Strategy Sessions

Facilitated breakout discussions:

- Education and Training [Latimer Hall 75]
- Community and Patient Voice [Wright Community Gallery - Side A]
- Research and Clinical Practice [Wright Community Gallery - Side B]
- AI and Technology [GM Auditorium - Side 1]
- Government and Accountability [GM Auditorium - Side 2]
- Payer [Trustees' Boardroom]

4 – 4:30 p.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Report Back: Collective Learnings and Next Steps

Key Insights and proposed actions

4:30 – 4:45 p.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Final Call to Action: Rehumanizing Care

Our commitment to building an anti-racist, justice-based health ecosystem

4:45 – 5 p.m. [General Motors Auditorium]

Conference Close and Evaluations

Thank you, evaluations, and next steps for ongoing collaboration.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS



IJEOMA NNODIM OPARA, M.D., FAAP, FAIM

Dr. Ijeoma Nnodim

Opara is a double-board certified physician scientist activist and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine and Wayne

Health. Her mission in life is to

dismantle white supremacist delusion by eliminating antiBlack racism in medicine, healthcare, and public health while centering and celebrating Black brilliance, abundance, and joy. She is an NIH-funded health equity implementation researcher and the founding director of the “Health Equity and Justice in Medicine” (HEJiM) initiative, co-founding director of Wayne State University Global Health Alliance, and co-created the Global Urban Health and Equity curriculum.

She is an internationally renowned award winning educator, scholar, and thought leader in antiracism and antioppression, decolonization, and Black liberation and focuses on the joy, abundance, and brilliance of Blackness. She is a member of the White House Office of Public Engagement Healthcare Leaders in Minority Health where she advises on antiracism, health justice,

and health equity, Racism and Health section editor for Global Public Health PLOS One journal, and member of the National Health Equity Collective. She is a leader in the Michigan State Medical Society Taskforce on Health Equity, the Governor’s Roundtable on Reproductive Justice, the state of Michigan Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee, and a community health influencer for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. As CEO and founder of OparaSpeaks, she inspires and equips individuals and organizations with the tools to transform their systems into antiracist, just, equitable, and nurturing environments where Black brilliance thrives. She founded and directs the Opara Equity, Justice, and Joy lab and mentors hundreds of trainees, youth, and community members in community-based and -led implementation action research. She is also co-chair of the Detroit End Race-Based Medicine Taskforce, Canada-US coalition to End Race Correction in Healthcare, and The North American Conference to End Race-Based Medicine. She is a renowned speaker, consultant, coach, and facilitator and hosts an online think tank: Antiracism in Action Roundtable #AIART, a interdisciplinary community of Black leadership to eliminate antiBlackness from medicine and healthcare, and public health. ●



LATONYA RIDDLE-JONES, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Riddle-Jones is a proud Chemical Engineering graduate of Michigan State University, Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM) and DMC/Wayne State University School of Medicine Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency program.

She practiced at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for 2 years upon graduation, and served as Clinical Instructor for University of Michigan Med/Peds program while there. Here at Wayne State University, she is an Assistant Professor, Medical Director for the Corktown Health Center (a medical home for Detroit’s LGBTQ community), Associate

Medical Director for the Tri-County Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, faculty mentor for FitKids360 at WSU School of Medicine (an obesity treatment program for children), and serves as a representative on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Department of Internal Medicine.

Her research interests include obesity prevention and treatment, effects of the Affordable Care Act on safety-net programs, and the performance of engineering students in medical school, while her clinical interests include addressing the medical needs of the LGBTQ community, asthma, diabetes and obesity. She is a proud wife, and mother of two. She loves ambulatory medicine, and her goal is to keep patients out of the hospital by staying on top of their preventative health needs – mind, body and spirit. ●

SEUN ROSS, DNP, MS, CRNP-F, NP-C



Seun Ross is the Principal Advisor at Encoding Equity Alliance. A recognized expert in implementation science, systems innovation, policy reform and clinical transformation, Dr. Ross is dedicated to achieving

health justice through strategies that address barriers at their root. At Encoding Equity Alliance, her work focuses on transforming how race is considered in research design and clinical algorithms which is aimed at tackling inequities in healthcare delivery. Her leadership has played a pivotal role in closing disparities, including spearheading the creation of the Regional Coalition to Eliminate Race-Based Medicine in Greater Philadelphia.

She is a published author and has contributed to significant reports, the National Academies of Medicine's Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Saves Lives, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Advanced Practice Nursing Leadership: A Global Perspective, and the American Nurse Credentialing Center's The Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Executive Role.

As a thought leader, Dr. Ross has lectured extensively on topics such as healthcare policy, evidence-based practice, and addressing systemic inequities through research-driven approaches. Her contributions to the field have earned her numerous accolades, including the Healthcare Trailblazer Award from City and State PA, the Women of Achievement Award from the Philadelphia Tribune, the Health Equity in Business Award from the March of Dimes-Philadelphia, and the Healthcare Award from Coppin State University's College of Health Professions Helene Fuld School of Nursing.

Dr. Ross serves on the Board of Directors for YMCA Delaware, the Children's Crisis Treatment Center, and the March of Dimes Greater Philadelphia. She is the Chair of the National Kidney Foundation Leadership Summit, an active member of the University Science Center Health Innovation Council, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, and the American College of Healthcare Executives. She holds certification as a family nurse practitioner and remains steadfast in achieving clinical and community impact for equal outcomes. ●

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

AARON BAUGH

Dr. Aaron Baugh is a pulmonologist raised in Ann Arbor, MI and trained at the University of California San Francisco whose research programs study racial and economic health disparities in smoking-related disease. ●



KAREN EDWARDS

Karen Edwards is a retired public health official for the City of Detroit who holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in business administration. She is passionate about using her experiences as a kidney patient to make an impact that will foster the mission of the KHI Patient and Family Partnership. She seeks to make an impact in the areas of patient engagement, community engagement, health equity and inclusion, and policy development – ultimately to build trust and transparency amongst patients and caregivers.



Edwards aims to ensure that patients are engaged and involved in advancements in biomedical products and other kidney care innovations. She believes that patient-centeredness must go hand in hand with the production and implementation of biomedical products.

Moreover, Edwards works to ensure that all aspects of the Belmont Report – developed by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research – are maintained in the development of biomedical products for kidney patients. The report's core aspects include: 1) Respect for person, 2) beneficence, and 3) justice. ●

JOSEPH GRAVES

Dr. Joseph Graves, Jr. received his Ph.D. in Environmental, Evolutionary and Systematic Biology from Wayne State University in 1988. In 1994 he was elected a Fellow of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). His recent honors include: "Genius Award" Liberty Science Center and Outstanding Alumnus Award (Public Service) Oberlin College (May 2024); Patrusky Lecture for Science Writers Conference (November 2024); and W.W. Howells Award for best book in biological anthropology, presented by the American Association of Anthropologists (AAA), November 2024.

His research focuses on the evolutionary genomics of adaptation. He is the former Director of the Genomic Research and Data Science Center for Computation and Cloud-Computing, GRADS-4C, NIH; Associate Director, Precision Microbiome Engineering (PreMiEr) NSF Gen-4 ERC; and the Director, NC Amgen Biotech Experience.



He is the author of: A Voice in the Wilderness, (Basic Books), 2022 with Alan Goodman, Racism, Not Race, Columbia University Press, 2022; Principles and Applications of Antimicrobial Nanomaterials, (Elsevier), 2021; The Emperor's New Clothes, Rutgers University Press, 2005; and The Race Myth, Dutton Press, 2005. The following books will be published in 2025:

1. Rose MR. Lenski R. Matos M., (New York: World Scientific), in prep, publication date 2025.
2. Graves JL. Why Black People Die Sooner: Medical Misconceptions, the Harm They Cause, and How to Fix It, in press, Columbia University Press, 2025.
3. Qureshi Z. Suleman M. (Amsterdam: Elsevier), Graves JL Section editor, 2026.

He has also served on the Racial Reconciliation and Justice Commission, and COVID Vaccination Task Force, the Council of Advice on Public Policy (CAPP) of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, and as science advisor to several Theological Seminaries through the AAAS Dialogues of Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program. ●

RICKY GRISSON

Ricky D. Grisson, II M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H. is a Pathologist, Laboratory Medicine physician and scholar with nearly two decades of experience directing high-complexity clinical laboratories. He serves as CLIA laboratory director for a number of regional laboratories and brings deep expertise in clinical laboratory interpretation, laboratory developed test validation, high complexity laboratory operations, network contract negotiations, informatics and quality systems development, management, assurance and control.

At NyLa, he has expanded coverage of computational and digital pathology. He serves as the NyLa representative to several regional and national healthcare organizations, including the College of American Pathologists, the Digital Pathology Association, initiatives of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and initiatives of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies/Doris Duke Foundation.

Grisson completed medical school at Harvard, graduating magna cum laude with a special focus on molecular and cellular virology and HIV vaccine development. He obtained an MBA from Goizueta Business School at Emory University as an El Paso Energy Scholar with a special focus on healthcare policy and management. And he obtained an MPH from Dartmouth Medical School with a focus on healthcare quality and biostatistics. ●



JESSICA PAULUCCI CERDEÑA



Dr. Jessica Paulucci Cerdeña is a medical anthropologist and family physician with fifteen years of experience advocating for social and health justice. She earned her M.D. and Ph.D. from Yale University where she began using scholarship and activism as tools for health justice. Dr. Cerdeña coined the term “race-conscious medicine” to emphasize how racism, rather than race, determines illness and health. Her first book “Pressing Onward: The Imperative Resilience of Latina Migrant Mothers” narrates the ways women who migrated from Latin America overcome structural oppression to build futures for themselves and their children. Dr. Cerdeña is currently completing her family medicine residency at Middlesex Health and serves as an Assistant Research Professor through the

Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy at the University of Connecticut. Following graduation, she will continue working at the intersection of research, community-based primary care, and health policy. ●

JUYOUN HAN

Juyoun Han is a partner leading the Tech and Human Rights Department at her firm, where she focuses on groundbreaking legal issues in artificial intelligence, digital rights, and discrimination. Drawing on her judicial experience as a former law clerk and intern in the U.S. District Court (EDNY), she handles litigation from client consultation to U.S. Supreme Court petitions. Ms. Han is a frequent lecturer at top institutions including Yale, NYU, and Georgetown, and has presented internationally on issues of digital justice, disability rights, and online safety. Her work has influenced legislation and regulation related to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, the Copyright Act, and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. She holds a J.D. from Georgetown Law and studied international law at The Hague Academy.



Ms. Han's legal impact spans key areas such as algorithmic discrimination in healthcare, social media accountability, whistleblower protection, and art preservation. She has led class actions that challenged race-based medical algorithms, resulting in policy changes in prisons and hospitals. Her advocacy in social media victim rights includes high-profile cases involving child exploitation and app-related harm. She also represents whistleblowers in environmental and child privacy cases, and successfully defended artists in landmark street art litigation. Her academic writing addresses AI bias, medical ethics, and digital censorship, making her a leading voice at the intersection of law, technology, and human rights. ●

ANDREW J. TWINAMATSIKO

Andrew Twinamatsiko is a director of the Center for Health Policy and the Law at the O'Neill Institute. He provides technical assistance for policymakers and public education on health policy legal issues — primarily focusing on access to healthcare coverage, affordability, transparency, and equity.

Prior to joining the O'Neill Institute, Twinamatsiko worked as a senior staff attorney at the Public Health Law Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. In that role, he provided legal technical assistance to public health professionals, governmental agencies, and advocates throughout the U.S. in developing policies to eliminate tobacco-related morbidity and mortality. Working in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health's Tobacco Control Program, Twinamatsiko led a team of attorneys and policy analysts to craft tobacco endgame policies aimed at ending the tobacco epidemic in California.

Twinamatsiko has also served as an adjunct professor at Mitchell Hamline, where he mainly taught public health law and state and local government law. His scholarly interests are centered around the intersection of anti-Black racism and health policy.

Twinamatsiko received his J.D. from the University of South Dakota and his LL.B. from Uganda Christian University. ●



DARSHALI VYAS



Dr. Darshali Vyas is currently a Pulmonary/Critical Care fellow at MGH/BIDMC in Boston, MA. After growing up in Kentucky, she came to Boston for college and medical school at Harvard, with a year in between spent living in Madrid on a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship. She completed her internal medicine residency at MGH and spent a year serving as Chief Resident. She is now completing her fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in the combined BIDMC/MGH program. Her research interests to date have focused on investigating the impacts of race-based medicine on clinical algorithms and diagnostic tools. ●

JARRETT WEINBERGER

Dr. Jarrett Weinberger currently serves as the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) at the Detroit Medical Center, overseeing more than 60 programs and over 700 residents and fellows. He is also an Associate Professor in the Division of General Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

He remains actively involved in both inpatient and outpatient settings with a focus on Internal Medicine. Dedicated to serving the community and patients where they are, he has been very involved in various programs designed to connect community members with the appropriate care. He worked with the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation on their "building trust" initiative. He offered essential support and

guidance in developing a diverse patient education series and a Health, Equity, and Justice in Medicine (HEJIM) curriculum. He also serves as the primary care provider for many HIV-positive patients.

Dr. Weinberger has served as the Medical Director of Quality for his practice group and is an active member of several national professional organizations. He has a diverse range of published writings and research, exploring innovations in graduate medical education, clinical outcomes across various populations, and case studies.

Born and raised in Detroit, Dr. Jarrett Weinberger received his medical doctorate from Wayne State University in 2006. He then completed his Internal Medicine residency at the Detroit Medical Center. Dr. Weinberger immediately entered academic medicine, where he spent over 8 years leading one of the largest Internal Medicine training programs in Michigan. ●



GWEN WINSTON

Gwendolyn Winston is President of g. bailey winston enterprise, an organizational development consulting company. For the past two years she has been an advisor/coach to the co-directors of Wisdom Institute, a nonprofit that she founded in 1999 and directed until 2023. Gwen's enterprise specializes in small and large group facilitation, designs and leads racial equity and justice dialogic processes, community engagement action planning for coalition partnerships in nonprofit, health, government, academia fields, and for social justice initiatives and organizations engaged in human renewal and transformation.

As a seasoned Future Search consultant trained by Sandra Janoff of the nationally recognized Future Search Network, Winston uses this methodology to center women's ways in program development and advocacy, infusing art, storytelling, movement, music and the oral tradition as culture and practice to create gracious space for conversations. These conversations allow all to bring their full selves into the room in new ways to gain fresh perspectives with energy and grassroots sensibilities.

Gwen's mission is to elevate connectedness and womb consciousness. She is recognized as a long-standing visionary, strategic leader and statewide organizer of educational and advocacy initiatives centered in the lives of African American women.

Born and raised in Detroit, Gwen has an accomplished history in political, policy and gender justice arenas. She worked as Chief of Staff for former Detroit City Council President Pro Tem; directed projects for a sexual assault holistic healing and awareness nonprofit; worked in the housing development field; served as a student and alumni development officer at a historic black college in Detroit; and for 18 years, pre-COVID, served as an Adjunct Faculty member at Wayne County Community College in its workforce development division's nonprofit management and grant writing certificate programs.

Winston earned a Master in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Wayne State University. She is a facilitator with Doers Alliance, a board member of Food 4 Future Foodies, a former board member of Michigan Voices, a Fellow of the Michigan Political Leadership Program and the Detroit Equity Action Lab at Wayne State University Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

Gwen has been recognized by the National Association of Women Business Owners Greater Detroit Chapter; was named a MamaVist of the year by Mothering Justice; received the Harriet Tubman Award from the National Organization for Women Detroit; and the Women's Action for New Direction of Southeast Michigan recognized her as a Systems Thinker. She has received the Freshwater Future and the River Work Network award as a Water Justice Shero and Innovator.

Winston is the proud mother of two, grandmother of three grandsons and became a great grandmother to Chrome, born in Italy last November where his dad, Cassius, played professional basketball. ●



SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

DAVID UNDERWOOD

AYH'ANNA NELSON

KIA SWEENEY



Kia Sweeney is a native of Detroit, and a proud Cass Tech graduate. She attended the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor for undergraduate and graduate studies. She received a Bachelors of Science in Brain Behavior and Cognitive Science, a Masters in Social Work in Interpersonal Practice with Children, Youth and Families and a Masters in Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education. She has several years of experience as a Social Worker, Therapist, Program Director and Health Educator. She is now a 4th year medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine, where she is deciding between Family Medicine or Psychiatry. She has a love for family, people and dancing. Her faith and genuine gratitude keeps her grounded. Her goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of others while helping them to achieve their health goals. ●

DEB STEWART

Deb Stuart is a community educator and environmental justice advocate with 15+ years of experience in adult education, health equity, and community-based research. Expertise in instructional design, participatory research methods, and coalition building. Dedicated to advancing zero waste initiatives, circular economy infrastructure, and sustainable community health practices in Detroit through applied research, program development, and stakeholder engagement. ●



FARAH YUSUF

PATRICIA QUAGLIAW

TAMIKA DAVIS

A portrait of Robert Brooks, a middle-aged Black man with a goatee and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft gradient of blue and white.

“After learning about clinical trials at Karmanos, I knew there were other options for me to have a journey that would be successful.”

Cancer patients like Robert Brooks have access to tomorrow's standard of care today through the clinical trials program at Karmanos Cancer Institute.

To refer a patient to Karmanos' clinical trials program, scan the QR code or visit karmanos.org/opentrials.



SPECIAL THANK YOU

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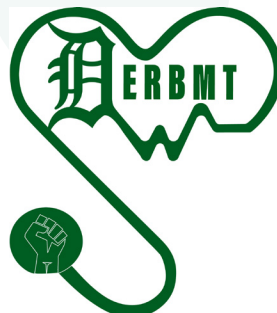
B A R B A R A A N N



CANCER INSTITUTE

Wayne State University

EVENT SUPPORTER





MEDICAL DOCTOR

Compassionate physician.
Champion of equitable
access to care.

Dr. Charles H. Wright
exemplified the principles
of the medical profession
set forth in the Hippocratic
Oath: *"Do No Harm."*



WAYNE STATE School of Medicine

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