



Jackson Heart Study CORC PI presents at NIH director's precision medicine initiative workshop

In his State of the Union Address, President Barak Obama unveiled details about the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI), a bold new research effort to transform strategies used to improve health and treat disease that will



Dr. Donna Antoine-LaVigne

work best for individual patients. As part of that initiative, Dr. Donna Antoine-LaVigne, principal investigator of the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) Community Outreach Center (CORC), in the Jackson State University School of Public Health was among a select group invited to participate in the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) two-day Precision Medicine Initiative Participant Engagement and Health Equity Workshop and to become a member of the PMI protocol development team.

The PMI will initiate a new model of patient-powered research involving a national cohort that would enable clinicians to select treatments that work best for individual patients. The current, routine "one-size-fits-all-approach" in healthcare can be very successful for some patients, but not for many others. This new PMI has the potential to improve health care and speed the development of new preventions and interventions, as well as more effective treatments.

As NIH makes plans to recruit participants into the NIH PMI Cohort, scheduled to begin in early 2016, the group will be responsible for refining protocol and processes for the data collection. Antoine-LaVigne will represent the JHS in this endeavor by providing input regarding essential elements of cohort recruitment.

Drawing upon 15 years of experience working intimately with the JHS community and the expertise she has developed over the past 35 years in building community

partnerships and coalitions, community mobilization, engagement and outreach that enabled the JHS to recruit the largest epidemiological study of cardiovascular disease in African Americans (5,301 participants) conducted to date, Antoine-LaVigne made significant contributions to the discussions by providing valuable input to scientists invited to Washington by NIH to learn about community engagement strategies for a diverse sustained precision medicine cohort that will include participants from across the United States.

Antoine-LaVigne's participation in this initiative symbolized an important contribution of the JHS cohort study that extends far beyond the Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties' borders to the future health of the nation and the world.

She highlighted interactions with the JHS community and cohort using five key strategies successfully employed with the JHS: (1) factors that would make it more likely for people who have been historically under-represented in research to participate; (2) community engagement strategies that can successfully develop individual- and community-level partnerships that are sensitive to the diverse social, religious, economic, and geographic settings; (3) recognizing and addressing the potential barriers to participation in the Precision Medicine Initiative; (4) implementing safeguards to avoid potential stigmatization of populations involved and the need to protect against any possible negative consequences resulting from their participation; and (5) educating and reassuring communities of the value of using the Precision Medicine Cohort to enable better understanding of health and disease with the goal to improve the health of all segments of the U.S. population. Through her involvement, the PMI is now in a position to use lessons learned from the JHS to facilitate development of its community-based agendas.

Antoine-LaVigne's presentation may be viewed on the JHS CORC website at: <http://www.jsu.edu/jsucorc/media/>.

Jackson Heart Study investigators invited by NHLBI to participate in multi-level interventions research planning working group

The successes of the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) community outreach and engagement activities have led to an invitation by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to participate in a working group on multi-level interventions research that targets hard-to-reach, high risk or vulnerable populations and communities. This working group included the top experts in the field. JHS Community Outreach Center (CORC) Principal Investigator Dr. Donna Antoine-LaVigne and Senior Research Scientist Dr. Clifton Addison represented the JHS at this

important meeting in September. The meeting was organized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and held in Bethesda, Md. The recommendations from this working group will be used to guide future research in multi-level interventions.

Effective recruitment, retention, outreach, and health promotion in the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) communities required the deployment of multi-level strategies that enabled the JHS to successfully initiate the largest epidemiological study of cardiovascular disease among African Americans.

Strategies implemented by the Community Partnership Office (CPO) of the Jackson Heart Study facilitated the recruitment of the 5,301 cohort from Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties, an accomplishment that is recognized worldwide. The Community Outreach Center (CORC) located in the School of Public Health at Jackson State University is continuing the successful path initiated by the CPO and leading the way in devising and providing effective retention, outreach, and health promotion activities in the JHS study area.

Jackson Heart Study family welcomes new JSU School of Public Health dean



Dr. Dorothy C. Browne

Dr. Dorothy C. Browne joined the Jackson State University family in August as the founding dean of the first School of Public Health in Mississippi. Browne has a long history of commitment to public health and has a keen interest in the elimination of health disparities which aligns closely with the objectives of the Jackson Heart Study centers - the Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC) and the Community Outreach Center (CORC). Coinciding with Browne's arrival at JSU, the two JHS centers became affiliated with and are both now housed under the School of Public Health structure.

Browne was introduced to the Jackson Heart Study family during the 15th Annual Birthday Celebration held Sept. 26 at the Jackson Medical Mall, Thad Cochran Center. The JSU family and the JHS family warmly welcome Dr. Browne and look forward to a long and productive relationship.

Since 2012, Browne served as an adjunct professor of maternal and child welfare at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health while also working with colleagues from UNC-CH and/or Duke University (Consortium for Social Equity) conducting workshops, teaching

courses in health disparities and planning the National Health Equity Research Webcast (formerly the Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute and Videoconference on Minority Health).

In 2009, Browne became the Special Assistant to the Chancellor and the Director of the Public Health Institute at North Carolina A&T State University. From 2001 to 2009, Browne was the senior scientist for Morgan State University's NIH-funded Prevention Sciences Research Center (which subsequently housed the Drug Abuse Research Program, the Summer Research Training Program for Undergraduate Students, the Health Services Research Training Program, and the Faculty Fellows Research Program in Drug Abuse Prevention). In addition, Browne was co-director of the Morgan-Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions – a collaborative venture with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

JHS Bulletin Board

♥ SAVE THE DATE:

The Jackson Heart Study Celebration of Life will be held Sat., Feb. 27, 2016 at the Jackson State University Walter Payton Recreation and Wellness Center, 34 Walter Payton Drive, Jackson.

Jackson Heart Study celebrates 15 years, pays tribute to long-time JHS advocate and study volunteer Mrs. Margie Fairley-Cunningham

The Jackson Heart Study (JHS) celebrated its 15th year of operation Sept. 26 with 200 in attendance. This year's celebration honored Mrs. Margie Fairley-



Mrs. Margie Fairley-Cunningham

Cunningham, one of the JHS community giants who served for many years as a community representative on several of the JHS sub-committees and contributed immensely to the structure, management, and successes of the JHS. The theme for the 15th birthday celebration was: *"Hats Off to the Jackson Heart Study."* As part of the celebration, Mrs. Cunningham was cited for her successful introduction of the "Red Hat Society" as a major recruitment and retention activity to the Jackson Heart Study community. Mrs.



Dr. Mario Sims

Augustine Kelly, Rankin County community health advisor, served as the presider for the program.

Featured presenters at this year's event were Dr. Ervin Fox and Dr. Mario Sims whose messages were very well received by the audience and who answered questions from audience members regarding their presentations. Fox, an investigator at The University of Mississippi Medical Center, presented on *"Relations between Subclinical Disease Markers and Type 2 Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Incident Cardiovascular Disease: The Jackson Heart Study."* He enlightened the audience about the results and implications from a paper he authored that was recently published in *Diabetes Care* in June.

Dr. Mario Sims, a JHS investigator and Science Officer from the JHS Field Center, presented his research titled *"Psychosocial Stress, Resilience and CVD in African Americans."* Sims also serves as a Daniel Hale Williams scholars learning community advisor for the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC).

Participants were treated to "Dancing for your Hearts," a rousing rendition of song medleys

to get bodies moving, including, "the Twist," "The Hokey Pokey," "Get Ready," and "The Electric Slide." Mrs. Darcel Odom, JHS health education specialist, led the dance moves. Additionally, a slide show of photos from past JHS milestone events offered participants a walk down memory lane.

In attendance to mark the 15th year celebration were: JSU President Dr. Carolyn W. Meyers, Vice President for Research Dr.



Dr. Ervin Fox

Loretta Moore, and Dean of the newly-created School of Public Health at Jackson State University Dr. Dorothy C. Browne. Also in attendance was the JHS NHLBI Project Officer Ms. Cheryl Nelson who brought greetings from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

Thank you Jackson Heart Study family for another fabulous event!!



Audience members listen intently to presentations on cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes during the 15th Jackson Heart Study birthday celebration.

Common Grounds Church hosts community health workshop in Jackson

On Saturday, Sept. 12, the Common Grounds Church hosted its Jubilee 15 Celebration conference targeting the West Jackson community and addressing the physical health of the community. The theme of the workshop was: “*Healthy Church, Healthy Community, Healthy City.*” Discussion among attendees was generated from four questions: (1) Where are we now? (2) Where are we currently going? (3) Where do we want to be? and (4) How are we going to get there?

The conference brought together individuals from all walks of life, with the ultimate goal of starting community

collaborations and developing sustainable partnerships. Various workshops were presented covering a wide-range of topics aimed at moving the community forward. The health workshop was facilitated by Ms. Mangle L. Shanks, a Jackson community member who is CEO of SHEETS, Inc. and one of the coordinators of the Step N 2 Life research study. Also participating in the conference was Ms. Saundra Hill whose presentation emphasized the need to start serving healthier food choices to children at church functions and events. Hill is a member of the Clinton Community Health Advisors Network and a coordinator of

the Step N 2 Life research study.

The workshop was sponsored by the Greater Bethlehem Temple Apostolic Faith Church. There was lively discussion about developing a food policy at the church, adopting better eating habits along with regular physical activity, the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables in grocery stores in the West Jackson area, inadequate health insurance among residents, medication adherence, and the need to have available transportation so that patients can keep their medical appointments. Participants walked away with some ideas and thoughts on how they could promote change within their social environment.

GTEC Daniel Hale Williams, UTEC scholars present at health disparities conference; four scholars chosen to participate in the 2015-16 DHWS cohort

The three cohorts of the Jackson State University Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC) Daniel Hale Williams Scholar Program (DHWS) were represented during oral presentations at the DHWS Research Day which was featured at the 15th Health Disparities Conference held in Jackson Oct. 8. Vanessa Bland, representing Cohort 1, presented “*The Association of Obesity Markers on CVD Prevalence Modified by Physical Activity: Jackson Heart Study.*”

Milton Dawkins, who presented his research, titled, “*Is Goal-Striving Stress Associated with Cardiovascular Disease among Jackson Heart Study Participants?*”, represented Cohort 2.

Trimella Jefferson, representing Cohort 3, presented “*The Association between Sleep and Obesity in African Americans in the Jackson Heart Study.*”

Tougaloo College Undergraduate Training and Education Center (UTEC) scholars were presenters. Waynesha Blaylock presented, “*Investigating the Role of the WNK100SR1/SPAK Signaling Pathway in Cancer;*” Jessica Guitierrez presented “*The Advanced Atmospheric Research and Monitoring*

Station (The ARMS Project) and Breland Crudup presented “*Post Operative Esophageal Leaks and Mimics: Find the one that Sinks the Ship.*”

“The scholars’ performances were outstanding. The staff and investigators at the JHS were overwhelmed at their developing research skills and their growing presentation capability. These young scholars made a strong impression on the audience,” said Dr. Brenda Campbell Jenkins, GTEC program director.

Four new Daniel Hale Williams Scholar program participants have been selected for the 2015-2016 academic year. The newly-installed scholars who make up Cohort 3 are: Lavonne Brown, Trimella Jefferson, Adam Smith, and Princeton Smith.

The scholars are pursuing the following degree programs. Brown, is a first-year student in the doctor of public health program with a concentration in behavioral health promotion and education. Jefferson is in the epidemiology concentration of the master of public health program. Both are studying at Jackson State University in the School of Public Health.

Adam Smith is currently a student at The University of Mississippi Medical Center pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in pharmaceutical sciences with a specialization in pharmacogenosy.

Princeton Smith, is pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in the field of clinical psychology at Jackson State University in the department of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts.

The scholars completed one-day orientation, a week of research-related activities and participated in the third Daniel Hale Williams Scholar Program Research Camp in May. Jenkins presided over the program that engaged the scholars in interactions with Drs. Anita DeStefano, Latrice Landry, Daniel Sarpong, Anissa Vines and Bessie Young, all of whom are nationally acclaimed experts in cardiovascular epidemiology.

Principal Investigator Dr. Marinelle Payton and the GTEC staff express appreciation to the experts for exposing the scholars to biomedical research topics and providing instruction that expanded the scholars’ knowledge and facilitated their skills- building.

Clark featured speaker

13th annual JHS Community Monitoring Board meeting held

The 13th annual Jackson Heart Study (JHS) Community Monitoring Board meeting, also known as the State of the Study, was held June 6 at the Jackson Medical Mall. JHS community partners directed and conducted the proceedings. Mrs. Tommie Winters, Clinton Community Health Advisors (CHAN) president, welcomed participants. Mrs. Dorothy Mennifield, Jackson, gave the invocation. Ms. Cheryl Nelson, JHS National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) project officer, Bethesda, Md., offered greetings from NHLBI and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Adolfo Correa, JHS interim director, provided the “State of the Study.”

Featured speaker was Commissioner Jermal Clark, Jackson Heart Study Community Coalition chairperson. Clark’s presentation, “15 Years of Heart: A Community Perspective,” described to nearly 150 audience members his participation at this year’s Observational Studies Monitoring Board meeting held annually to monitor and manage the progress and direction of the JHS.

Audience members expressed concern about not being provided adequate information on study findings as well as the progress of hiring a permanent African American principal investigator for the study.

Clark’s participation marked the first time in the history of NIH-funded research that a JHS community

member was invited to contribute at such a high level, a testament to the continuing community involvement in the JHS. It also marked official recognition that the community is a viable contributor to the direction and effect of research and emphasized the uniqueness of JHS in comparison to other research studies.

White awarded AHA fellowship

Dr. Wendy White, deputy director, Jackson Heart Study Undergraduate Training and Education Center, Tougaloo College, has been awarded a professional development fellowship by the American Heart Association Tobacco Regulation and Addiction Center through June 2016.

Participants praise health promotion research study program, coordinators

The Step N 2 Life Health Promotion research study, funded by the Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Health Disparities Elimination, concluded its final program and data collection activities on Sept. 19 with an official closing ceremony held in the Community Meeting Room of the Jackson Medical Mall. On the final day of the research study, the coordinators, Ms. Sandra Hill of the Clinton Community Health Advisors Network (CHAN) and Jackson community members Ms. Bettye Tyler, Ms. Ruby Gray and Ms. Mangle Shanks conducted the post-test evaluation having administered a pre-test at the beginning of the study.

In addition, final measures were completed on blood pressure, weight, glucose, and cholesterol. In the ceremony that followed data collection, participants gave testimonies about the value, impact, and the benefits that participating in this research had on their lives. Participants praised the Step N 2 Life coordinators for their foresight to take the steps to engage them in this life-saving endeavor. The research team is conducting data analysis with assistance from Jackson Heart Study Community Outreach Center investigators, and will make the study results available soon. So stay tuned!



Participants in the Step N 2 Life health promotion research study get checked for blood pressure, weight, glucose and cholesterol.



Step N 2 Life team members Sandra Hill, Clinton CHAN; and Jackson community members Bettye Tyler, Ruby Gray, and Mangle Shanks at the event finale.

Diversity supplement scholars' research experiences produce stellar results

The experiences of graduate students selected to be among the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) Community Outreach Center (CORC) diversity supplement scholars have produced outstanding research and students have a proven track record of success academically and in the world of work.

Dr. Alyce Stewart, a former Jackson Heart Study pre-doctoral diversity supplement scholar assigned to the JHS CORC from 2011-2013,

recently completed all requirements for the degree of Doctor of Public Health in the Jackson State University School of

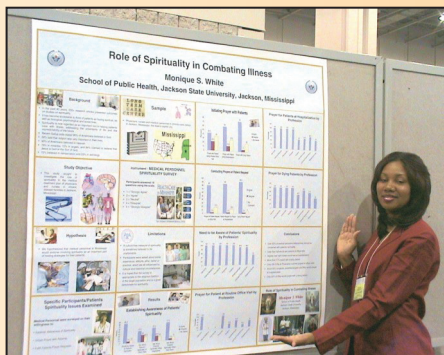


Dr. Alyce Stewart

Public Health. Stewart successfully defended her dissertation Sept. 25 and was selected to present findings of her research at the American Public Health Association's (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition in Chicago, Ill. Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Her presentation is titled *"Weight-Related Perceptions and Perceived Threat to Disease among African American Women in Mississippi."* Stewart's research received great commendation from APHA communications department representatives who described her research as newsworthy, representing major public health news. As a result, she was selected for media coverage and interviews at the APHA meeting.

Dr. Monique White, a former Jackson Heart Study post-doctoral

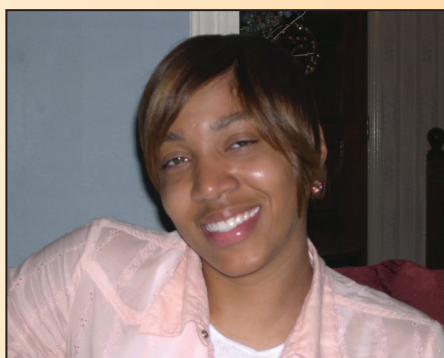
diversity supplement scholar assigned to the JHS CORC from 2011-2013, returned to CORC in



Dr. Monique White

September to provide services as a consulting research scientist and she is also working as an adjunct professor in Health Promotion/Health Education/Health Care Management.

During their stints as JHS scholars, Stewart and White were mentored by JHS Investigators Drs. Clifton Addison, Brenda Jenkins and Donna Antoine-LaVigne. They are co-authors on published manuscripts and have given presentations at numerous conferences.



Adrienne Clark

Adrienne Clark, a public health graduate student in the Jackson State University School of Public Health, has been awarded a diversity supplement and is assigned to the JHS CORC. Clark began as a diversity supplement

scholar in September. Her research project is titled *"Implementation and Impact of Health Promotion and Translation Strategies in the Jackson Heart Study Communities."* The supplement will provide her with cardiovascular health disparities research training through structured mentorship. Clark will benefit from mentorship experiences from a team of mentors that will include JHS Investigators, Drs. Clifton Addison, Brenda Jenkins, Donna Antoine-LaVigne and Marinelle Payton.

Vanessa Bland, a former Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC) Daniel Hale

Williams Scholar (Cohort 1) has been awarded a diversity supplement and is assigned to the JHS GTEC.



Vanessa Bland

Bland is a doctoral student in the Jackson State University School of Public Health and began as a diversity supplement scholar in September.

Bland's research project is titled *"The Association of Obesity Markers on CVD Incidence and Prevalence Modified by Physical Activity: Jackson Heart Study."*

The supplement will provide her with cardiovascular health disparities research training through structured mentorship.

Bland will benefit from mentorship experiences from a team of mentors that will include JHS Investigators Drs. Clifton Addison, Brenda Jenkins, Donna Antoine-LaVigne and Marinelle Payton.

McCoy joins Jackson Heart Study CORC as senior program manager

Dr. Pamela McCoy joined the Jackson State University Jackson Heart Study (JHS) Community Outreach Center (CORC) team on July 1 as the senior program manager. Prior to beginning her employment with JHS CORC, she served as the communications and external relations manager for the Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) at JSU.

McCoy earned a doctor of public health degree from the Jackson State University School of Public Health. Her doctoral research focused on obesity prevention in central Mississippi minority adults through the use of health communication as a behavioral intervention. She has presented a poster of her research at the Mississippi Public Health Association annual meeting and

garnered first place in the student competition of the JSU 14th Annual Eliminating Health Disparities Conference in 2014.



Dr. Pamela McCoy

A certified health education specialist, her public health experience includes managing a community-level HIV/AIDS prevention intervention implemented on three Mississippi HBCU campuses and coordinating the JSU Behavioral and Environmental Health Equity Project (BEHEP), which focused on the health

and health care needs of the Hispanic/Latino population in a tri-state area.

She is listed as an author on several BEHEP poster presentations and has conducted HIV poster presentations at national conferences.

McCoy holds a bachelor's degree in journalism/news editorial and a master's degree in communications/public relations from The University of Southern Mississippi and she earned a master's degree in public health from Jackson State University.

She is a member of the American Public Health Association, the Society for Public Health Education, the Mississippi Public Health Association, and the Delta chapter of the Society for Public Health Education.

Community Health Advisors Network News and Notes

Clinton CHAN

Mrs. Tommie Winters of the Bolton/Edwards CHAN continues to provide exercise classes to senior citizens at the Clinton Christian Community Center (4Cs). To date she has promoted health and wellness through exercising to over 300 participants.

Bolton/Edwards CHAN

The Bolton/Edwards CHAN held its 3rd Annual Jimmie Lewis Walk-A-Thon on July 25. The event starting point was at the entrance to Bolton and continued to The Jimmie Ray Lewis Park Plaza where presentations on fire safety and physical fitness were conducted. Dr. Robert Smith's staff provided free cholesterol and glucose tests to attendees.

Approximately 40 community members and community health advisors attended the event. Event sponsors were Asbury United Methodist Church, the Bolton/Edwards CHAN, the towns of Bolton and Edwards, Hinds AHS Class of '75, Jackson State

University Jackson Heart Study Community Outreach Center and Westhaven Funeral Home.

The Bolton/Edwards CHAN held its 2nd Annual Bolton/Edwards Health Awareness Day on Aug. 29, at Kingsley Chapel United Methodist Church in Edwards. The event consisted of presentations by Dr. C.F Landrum, a local physician, who addressed the health risks associated with diabetes; and Phyllis Anderson, MSN, RN, a family nurse practitioner and director of advanced practice, Mississippi Board of Nursing, who provided health and wellness information about cardiovascular disease, diabetes and nutrition.

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Bolton/Edwards CHAN's October Sustainability Meeting featured guest speaker and Edwards community member Dorothy Sims. Sims, a breast cancer survivor, shared her story of strength, perseverance and faith during her recovery.

White awarded supplement

Faren White, a Germantown High School senior, has been awarded a diversity supplement to participate in the Tougaloo College Undergraduate Training and Education Center.

White, who began basic science research in the Tougaloo College chemistry department in ninth grade,



Faren White

has presented research on the local and national levels. Her research interest includes epidemiological research.

A participant in the JHS Science Language Arts and Mathematics (SLAM) Program, White placed 1st in regional competition in 2014 and represented Mississippi in the Health Occupations Students of America National Epidemiology Exam.

Dr. Ervin Fox, a Jackson Heart Study cardiologist and investigator, is serving as her primary mentor.



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Article Submissions

The JHS Heartbeat Newsletter is published semi-annually (Spring and Fall). Its intent is to promote health awareness, provide items of interest to our CommUNITY, and publish information regarding cardiovascular related diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, strokes, cholesterol, physical activity, and nutrition by presenting research findings, articles, lay summaries, and reviews. The newsletter is an outlet for communication among the JHS staff and encourages contributions from investigators, cohort members, and partnering institutions.

Article submissions are invited for the upcoming editions of the JHS Heartbeat Newsletter. The submission deadline is February 15th for the Spring Edition and August 15th for the Fall Edition.

Submissions should be approximately 250 words or less. Relevant pictures, illustrations, and charts may be submitted with the articles. Information regarding upcoming educational conferences and meetings is also requested. All material information is subject to copy editing. Include the author's/agency's full name, credentials, mailing address, website (if applicable), telephone, fax number, and e-mail address. The use of all photos is subject to consent approval. All information should be e-mailed to Dr. Brenda Jenkins at brenda.w.campbell@jsums.edu, or mailed to JHS Heartbeat Newsletter, 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Suite 2260, Jackson, MS 39213.

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