Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities
Directors’ Message

The Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) is pleased to share its accomplishments of the past five years. Since its inception in 2003, IPEHD has managed and provided leadership for several programs and activities focused on research, faculty and student development, and community outreach and support. In addition, IPEHD has facilitated academic and community partnerships committed to improving health status and addressing health disparities in communities throughout South Carolina and beyond. We are excited about the many initiatives that have evolved from previous research and program activities and which serve as the basis for continued growth, capacity building, research infrastructure and sustainability. Over the last five years, IPEHD has been engaged in research and community activities that address HIV, HPV, cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, prostate cancer, obesity, mental health, autoimmune diseases, musculoskeletal injuries, and environmental health.

In line with our mission and strategic plan, we have aggressively sought new ways to broaden our research agenda through partnerships with agencies at every level of government and service to our communities. Our collaborations have spanned the gamut of local, state, federal and private agencies to include: the Department of Defense, National Minority Aids Council, the Medical University of South Carolina, American Public Health Association (APHA), American Cancer Society, Palmetto Health Systems, Greenville Hospital Systems (GHS), S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), S.C. Cancer Alliance (SCCA), the Historically Black Colleges
and Universities (HBCUs) in the state of South Carolina, the Faith-Based Community Network as well as the 1890 Land-Grant Network and a host of other community-based organizations.

We have conducted a number of research studies and pilot projects that have yielded significant results and findings that will serve to strengthen the field of health disparities research. Our approach for conducting research has been based on the basic principle of community engagement and community involvement at all levels of the process. The span of our research activity and partnerships reflect this commitment.

Research activity goals have exceeded our expectations over the last five years, with a research activity volume of over $24.4 million, of which approximately eighty-eight percent (88%) of funds generated (or $21.7 million) were federal awards, while the remaining twelve percent (12%) includes private and foundation awards. We are proud to have exceeded our projected levels of research funding.

Staffing levels have remained at the minimum level needed to meet the demand for extramural funding; however, we anticipate and welcome staff growth as current initiatives enter new phases. Our plans for sustainability include evaluation of our strategic goals, research progress and alignment with the changing landscape of public health, and exploration of new partnerships and areas of need for the expansion of our efforts to eliminate health disparities and ensure health equity. We will continue to target areas of increased human and financial resources and improved infrastructure to better position us to assume the role as a “national model” for addressing health disparities.

Saundra Glover, PhD, MBA, Director, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, Associate Dean for Health Disparities and Social Justice, and Professor, Health Services Policy and Management

Edith M. Williams, PhD, MS, Deputy Director for Research and Sustainability, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
Institute for Partnership to Eliminate Health Disparities

The mission of the Institute for Partnership to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) is to eliminate health disparities and promote health equity using a meta-leadership framework that increases academic, community, and strategic partnerships in South Carolina and beyond.

IPEHD aims to:

• Promote and increase minority health and health disparities research at the University of South Carolina and partner institutions;
• Increase the number of minority researchers conducting community-based participatory research in vulnerable and underserved populations;
• Recruit, train, and mentor students, faculty, and future research leaders from underrepresented populations interested in working careers in minority health and health disparities;
• Establish and enhance community partnerships in health disparities and minority health to improve the health status of minority populations in SC and the southeastern region of the US; and

Coordinating Center of Excellence in the Social Promotion of Health Equity through Research, Education, and Community Engagement (CCE-SPHERE)

The Coordinating Center of Excellence in the Social Promotion of Health Equity Research (CCE-SPHERE) is the second major grant received by IPEHD from the National Institutes of Health.
It allows the University of South Carolina, Claflin University, and the Orangeburg Community to continue the work started in its previous Center of Excellence in Cancer and HIV Research. Both projects focus on advancing research, education and training, and community outreach/community engagement.

Under the current project, research in the areas of HIV and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) has been expanded, and new research projects have been initiated in Head and Neck Cancer and Environmental Health. The project has also allowed continued efforts to recruit and develop students and faculty from underrepresented populations to pursue careers in health disparities research and to train biomedical and behavioral scientists in bioethics. In addition, the community has become engaged in research, as well as education and training. These efforts are designed to reduce HIV, Cervical Cancer, and to assess community perception of environmental determinants of cancer risk and disparities in rural and urban communities.

Fort Jackson Identifying Health Barriers Project: Soldier Health Promotion to Examine and Reduce Health Disparities (SHPERHD)

The focus of the SHPERHD project is to examine the root causes of military attrition and many of the issues that contribute to soldier
health issues (diet, military environment, physical activity patterns, physical readiness, stressors and anxiety), both pre- and post-deployment. Key areas of focus are post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mental health.

The three SHPERHD projects bring together USC researchers possessing expertise in nutrition and diet intervention, physical fitness and musculoskeletal injuries, athletic training, and mental health research. One primary objective is to assess baseline data of military personnel at key stages of recruitment through basic combat training to better develop the appropriate interventions to reduce attrition. SHPERHD is a multi-faceted investigative study of the Soldier population at the U.S. Army Basic Combat Training Center of Excellence (USABCTCoE) and Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC.

**The Prostate Cancer Disparities Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) – Endowed Chair**

In order to address cancer disparities in South Carolina, the Cancer Disparities Research Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) was created in 2008 by the South Carolina Legislature. Faculty from IPEHD contributed to the development of the Center and has been involved with the efforts of the Arnold School of Public Health to actively fill the Endowed Chair in Cancer Disparities Research.
The purpose of the CoEE is to stimulate health disparities research as well as to generate the most comprehensive and coordinated cancer research effort ever conducted in the state. The CoEE will attract the talents of the best cancer researchers, research institutions, and public health professionals who will conduct clinical trials aimed at reducing prostate cancer in South Carolina.

Researchers will network with community leaders to close gaps in cancer disparities, with a focus on prostate cancer. This will be accomplished through efforts based on education, screenings, and programs emphasizing proper nutrition, healthy lifestyles and timely access to quality and affordable healthcare. These efforts will ultimately change and save lives in South Carolina.

An Intervention to Reduce Psychosocial and Biological Indicators of Stress in African-American Lupus Patients: The Balancing Lupus Experience with Stress Strategies (BLESS) Study

The Balancing Lupus Experience with Stress Strategies (BLESS) Study is a partnership between the University of South Carolina - Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities and the Medical University of South Carolina. Funded by Pfizer’s Medical and Academic Partnerships (MAP) Program, BLESS is an intervention which aims to reduce psychosocial and biological Indicators of stress in African American Lupus patients. The project investigates the association between increased stress and increased disease activity due to its ability to compromise immune function.

A stress intervention was piloted and markers of psychosocial responses to stress were collected among a group of African American lupus patients
participating in an ongoing “Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) Clinic Database Project” directed by the Medical University of South Carolina Lupus Erythematosus (M.U.S.C.L.E.) Clinical Research Group. The project links a psychosocial stress intervention with standardized measures of stress in African American lupus patients. It also evaluates the significance of reducing stress in this population and provides the necessary preliminary steps toward future investigations of disease pathways.

**Administrative Supplements for Community-Engaged Research on HIV/AIDS-Related Cancers among Underserved Populations**

The Administrative supplements for community-engaged research on HIV/AIDS-related cancers among underserved populations pilot study examines human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer screening knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and screening behaviors, as well as dietary intake of fat, fruits and vegetables among living women with HIV/AIDS in Richland and Orangeburg counties. These two areas were selected to examine rural versus urban differences in these health outcomes. The data gathered from this formative research will be used to develop an HPV/cervical cancer prevention and control program that will be aimed at women living with HIV/AIDS. The project is funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute -Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities under the parent grant, the South Carolina Cancer Disparities Community Network.
Cervical Cancer Screening and HIV Testing Behaviors among Financially Disadvantaged Women in South Carolina

This research is a secondary data analysis of the South Carolina (SC) Medicaid database (females, aged 18-64) with linkage to the SC HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) database for HIV+ women to learn more about the scope of this problem in SC. The study aims to: 1) Describe cervical cancer screening and HIV testing behaviors; 2) Identify sociodemographic factors associated with cervical cancer screening and HIV testing behaviors among females with unknown HIV status; 3) Identify sociodemographic and HIV-related clinical factors associated with preventive health behaviors among females who are HIV-positive; 4) Identify sociodemographic and clinical factors associated with these preventive health behaviors among females aged 40-64 years who have been diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer; and 5) Create county-level maps using spatial epidemiology techniques to show utilization of cervical cancer screening and HIV testing health services. The project is funded by the South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research Institute, with an academic home at the Medical University of South Carolina.

The Health Disparities Research Network (HDRN)

The Health Disparities Research Network was created to:

• increase the capacity of faculty from South Carolina’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other institutions to conduct health disparities research;
• facilitate intra and inter-institutional research partnerships;
• enhance skills in grant writing and research methods; and
• provide support for research activities.
HDRN members are involved in various types of health disparities research and other-related activities that are aligned with moving our nation towards realizing its’ the long-term health goals and objectives outlined by Healthy People 2020. Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the each month to provide an opportunity for HDRN members to share manuscript and research ideas, receive training in grant writing and research methods (including manuscript development), as well as other resources that can assist faculty and community partners with professional development. The HDRN has successfully submitted manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, as well as a number of collaborative, multi-disciplinary proposals to government agencies and private foundations to secure funding to conduct health disparities research projects.

Over the last five years (2007-2012), members of our unit have submitted a total of 83 grant applications, 17 of which were funded for a total award amount of $21,718,997. In that same time period, we have achieved 87 manuscripts in print and in press, with 12 more currently under review, and 27 in development.
Institute Funding (2007-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institute Funding (Total: $24,477,376.00)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal: $21,653,376.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State: $2,669,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Foundation: $155,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


GLOVER, S. H., Principal Investigator-“Soldier Health Promotion to Examine and Reduce Health Disparities,” with Dr. Sonya Jones, Dr. Mark Davis and Dr. Shawn Youngstedt, Investigators. Department of Defense, $3.0 million, 2010-2012. (Approved/Pending Award)

GLOVER, S. H., Collaborating Investigator-Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) in Technology Applications for Health Behavior Change,” with Dr. Steven Blair, Principal Investigator and Dr. Carolyn Jenkins, Co-Principal Investigator (MUSC). SC Commission Higher Education (CHE) $3.0 million, Endowed Chair, 2009-2012.

GLOVER, S. H., Principal Investigator-“Soldier Health Promotion to Examine and Reduce Health Disparities,” with Dr. Sonya Jones, Dr. Mark Davis and Dr. Shawn Youngstedt, Investigators. Department of Defense, $2.1 million, 2009-2011.
GLOVER, S. H., Principal Investigator-“Soldier Health Promotion to Examine and Reduce Health Disparities,” with Dr. Sonya Jones, Dr. Mark Davis and Dr. Shawn Youngstedt, Investigators. Department of Defense, $925,000, 2008-2010.

GLOVER, S. H., Co-Principal Investigator and Associate Director, “SC Rural Health Research Center,” With Dr. Janice Probst-Principal Investigator and Dr. Amy Martin, Co-Principal Investigator. Health Resources and Services Administration, $2.6 million, 2008-2012.

GLOVER, S. H., Co-Principal Investigator-“Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) in Prostate Cancer Research,” with Dr. Marvella Ford (Medical University of South Carolina), Dr. Judith Salley (S.C. State University), Co-Principal Investigators. SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) $3.6 million, Endowed Chair, 2008-2011.


Wigfall, L.T., Co-Principal Investigator-“Cervical cancer screening and HIV testing behaviors among financially disadvantaged women in South Carolina” with Dr. Heather Brandt. South Carolina Translational Research - Pilot Project Program, $50,000, 2010-2012.

Williams, E.M., Principal Investigator-“Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Travel Burden Survey (SLETBS): Baseline Data Among a South Carolina SLE Cohort.” ASPIRE program, $10,000, 2012-2013.


Williams, E.M., Principal Investigator-“An Intervention to Reduce Psychosocial and Biological Indicators of Stress in African American Lupus Patients” with Dr. James Oates (Medical University of South Carolina). Pfizer Fellowship in Health Disparities, $130,000, 2010-2012.


Wilkinson, L., Principal Investigator-“Black Student SCOPE: Stress Coping, Obstruction Prevention, and Education” with Dr. Saundra Glover, Dr. Edith Williams, Jelani Kerr, Minnjuan Flournoy, Cordell Baugh, and Muhammad Salaam. USC Institute for African American Studies, $1,500, 2009-2010.

Williams, E.M., Co-Investigator-“Use of a Community-University Partnership to Reduce Environmental Stressors,” Dr. Sacoby Wilson-Principal Investigator. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, $1,218,075, 2009-2013.
Williams, E.M., Co-Principal Investigator—“Environmental Justice, Built Environment, and Health Disparities” with Dr. Sacoby Wilson-Co-Principal Investigator. South Carolina Honors College, $5,000, 2010.

Wilkinson, L., Principal Investigator—“A population-based analysis of the association between health insurance coverage and psychological distress, and the influence of other mediating factors among young adults in the United States.” Alvin R. Tarlov & John E. Ware Jr. Doctoral Dissertation Award in Patient Reported Outcomes, $25,000, 2010-2011.


Selected Grant Proposals Submitted (2007-2012)

- **Federal:** 19
- **State:** 1
- **Private Foundation:** 4


Williams, E.M., Co-Principal Investigator-“Self Management in Pediatric Lupus (SMPL)” with Dr. Laura Hourani-Co-Principal Investigator and Dr. Natasha Ruth-Research Mentor (Medical University of South Carolina). National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases, National Institutes of Health, $212,820, 2011-2015.


Williams, E.M., Principal Investigator-“Intervention to Improve Quality of life for African-AmericaN lupus patients (IQAN)” with Dr. James Oates, Dr. Kate Lorig, Dr. Saundra Glover, Dr. Diane Kamen, Dr. Sudie Back, Dr. Sara Wilcox, and Dr. Anwar Merchant-Mentors. National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases, National Institutes of Health, $447,385, 2012-2016.


Glover, S.H., Principal Investigator-“Identifying Reasons for Racial/Ethnic Disparities with Completing the HPV Vaccine Series among Adolescent Females” with Dr. Min-njuan Flournoy. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, $300,000.


Glover, S.H., Principal Investigator-“Elimination of Health Disparities through Translation Research.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, $1,350,000, 2009-2011.


Williams, E.M., Principal Investigator-“Project IMPROV- Improving Infant Health through Community Engagement.” National Institutes of Health, $1,000,000, Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research, 2009-2011.

Williams, E.M., Principal Investigator-“The Black College Atherosclerosis Understanding Study (BCAUS).” National Institutes of Health, $1,000,000, Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research, 2009-2011.


Glover, S.H., Principal Investigator-“The Community Research Incubator for Sustainable Partnerships (CRISP) Project to Eliminate Health Disparities.” National Institutes of Health, $1,000,000, Community-Linked Infrastructure to build Research Capacity, 2009-2011.

**Williams, E.M., Co-Investigator**—“Primary Care Physicians’ Role in Reducing African American Colorectal Cancer,” Dr. Sudha Xirasagar-Principal Investigator. *National Institutes of Health, $577,652, 2010-2013.*

**Williams, E.M., Co-Investigator**—“Deployment of community health workers to improve care and self-management among dual eligible older adults in predominantly African American counties in South Carolina,” Dr. Saundra Glover and Dr. Sue Levkoff-Co-Principal Investigators. *Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services, $14,389,106, 2012-2015.*


**Wigfall, L.T., Principal Investigator**—“Acceptance of HIV Testing at Mammography Clinics.” *South Carolina Translational Research - Pilot Project Program, $50,000, 2010-2011.*

**Wigfall, L.T., Principal Investigator**—“HPV and cervical cancer among midlife and older women living with HIV.” *National Institutes of Health/Office of Research on Women’s Health, $145,000, 2010-2012.*

**Glover, S.H., Principal Investigator**—“STEP – UP”

**Wilkinson, L., Evaluator**—“Project Patriot.” $800,000 over three years.

**Selected Publications (2007-2012)**


Cameron, A., Livingston, J., Causey, S., Brandon, D., Brinson, L., Flournoy, M. -(in press) Fourth and a Mile: Using Theater in Comparison to Workshop/Lecture as an Approach to Educating African American Men about Prostate Cancer. World Medical & Health Policy


IPEHD Faculty, Staff, and Post-Doctoral Fellows

Faculty

Saundra Glover, Ph.D., MBA, Institute Director
Dr. Glover’s public health research experience has primarily been in the areas of health access and utilization for vulnerable populations and community-based participatory research. Dr. Glover has served as PI, Co-PI, and investigator on a number of contracts and grants examining access and quality of care issues for low-income children, community-based mental health service delivery, school-based mental health service delivery, syphilis prevention and teen-pregnancy. All of these areas of focus address public health issues that have disparate outcomes for African-American communities, most especially, rural African-American communities.

Tasha Louis-Nance, Ed.D., MRC, M.Ed., Research Faculty
Dr. Louis-Nance has extensive experience in working with underserved, people with disabilities and vulnerable populations in eliminating health disparities through education, counseling and research. Dr. Louis-Nance’s expertise is in research education, counseling, conducting focus groups and promoting community engagement.

Lisa Wigfall, Ph.D., Research Faculty
Dr. Lisa Wigfall’s research interests are focused on reducing and ultimately eliminating health and health care disparities experienced by persons both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Dr. Wigfall is interested in early detection of HIV infection and entry/retention in HIV care, especially among vulnerable populations such as those residing in rural and/or otherwise medically-underserved geographical areas.

Edith Williams, Ph.D., MS, Deputy Director for Research and Sustainability
Dr. Edith Williams’ long-range professional, research, and career goals focus on developing and implementing research that directly translates into empowerment and tangible gains for those most affected by existing health disparities in lupus and the eventual improvement in health outcomes among vulnerable populations as a result of such critical examination of existing health disparities.
Staff

Gwendolyn Preston, M.Ed., Assistant Director
Ms. Preston serves as the assistant director of the USC-Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities. In this role, she is responsible for coordinating programs and activities which introduce secondary and undergraduate students and faculty to public health, public health research and health disparities research. Gwen works on teams that develop research training, service learning, and internship programs. She has worked extensively in developing a health disparities distance education course which was offered to faculty at each of the six Historically Black Colleges and Universities in South Carolina.

Andrea Williams, M.Ed., Associate Director
Andrea provides leadership and manages the development and implementation of a variety of IPEHD projects to include student development, faculty development, community partnership and outreach, and research. She also functions as the department’s human resources liaison and is often engaged in activities that help IPEHD to enhance and maximize personnel resources and improve employee relations.

Sidney Bates, Budget Manager
Ms. Bates currently serves as the Business Manager. She monitors all budgets, to include budgets funded by the state and the federal government, as well as private foundations. Her background in accounting and knowledge of reporting requirements assures efficient management of the composite and individual budget components of the projects, as well as timely reporting. She prepares and submits required budget and expenditure documents (both paper and/or electronic) and pays the expenses for various Institute activities.

Karen Clinton, MBA (c), BA, Senior Community Liaison
As Senior Community Liaison, Karen assists with the development and implementation of programs, resources, and services to address disparities in HPV/cervical cancer and HIV/AIDS in Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg Counties. In addition, she builds and maintains community partnerships and works in collaboration with community leaders.

Loretta W. Green, LMSW, Community Resources Coordinator
Loretta Green serves as the Community Health Resource Coordinator with the CCE SPHERE Community Engagement and Outreach Core. In partnership with a variety of community partners, Loretta assists with developing, expanding, and executing prevention efforts and screening services focused on HIV/AIDS, HPV/Cervical Cancer, and other chronic diseases. In addition, her work with community partners and strengthen health promotion, and disease prevention resources/services available in Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg Counties.
Menia Lee, MRA (c), BS, AS, Program Manager
Menia Lee assists the CCE SPHERE Community Engagement and Outreach Core with developing and implementing programs, resources, and services that address disparities in HPV/cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other chronic illnesses through the Core’s Community Action Board CAB. She leads the team that monitors the activities and contributions of the CAB members and their work with and contributions to the Orangeburg, Calhoun, and Bamberg communities.

Evangeline Cornelius, Project Coordinator
Ms. Cornelius is a dedicated and technically skilled business professional with versatile administrative skill sets developed through education and experience as an administrative coordinator, program assistant, bookkeeper and transcriptionist. She excels in resolving challenges with innovative solutions and has many years of experience in project management at the University of South Carolina. She has worked at the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina on several projects as project coordinator including a community-university environmental justice and health partnership to eliminate environmental stressors in North Charleston, South Carolina (1R21ES017950-01), and currently serves as project coordinator for the newly funded CCE-SPHERE environmental health core.

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Minnjuan Flournoy Floyd, Ph.D.
Minnjuan W. Flournoy Floyd’s research is dedicated to eliminating health disparities in rural, minority, underserved, and disenfranchised communities. Her research foci include access and utilization to health services, infectious and chronic disease prevention and management, emergency preparation and management, and program/project evaluation.

Larrell Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Dr. Wilkinson’s research emphasis includes: health disparities/health equity, young adult wellness, access and utilization of health care and psychosocial health. Dr. Wilkinson also focuses on disease and disability prevention through applying the life-course perspective and community-based participatory research.

W. Andre Walker, Ph.D.
Dr. Walker's research is dedicated to adolescent health HIV/STI prevention and education, utilization of health care services among the uninsured and rural populations. His research areas include health policy with special interest in health disparities, minority men’s health, chronic disease management and oral health research.
Contact Information:
Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities
Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina
220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 201
Columbia, SC  29210
(803) 251-6300
www.sph.sc.edu/health_disparities