



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

8th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Friday, March 22, 2019; 8:15 am – 1:30 pm

Albert Sherman Center
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

Presenter Biographies

Keynote

Mona N. Fouad MD, MPH

Building Capacity in Health Disparities Research

Lecture Hall/Albert Sherman Center Auditorium (2nd floor) AS2.2102

Mona Fouad, MD, MPH is Professor of Medicine, Director of the Division of Preventive Medicine, and Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Founding Director of the UAB Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center. She is recognized nationally as a leader in health disparities research and served as a member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities from 2008-2012. In 2017, Dr. Fouad was elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She **obtained her MD from Alexandria University School of Medicine in Alexandria, Egypt, and her MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health.** Dr. Fouad's career has focused on the health of minority and underserved populations, including efforts to increase involvement of special and underrepresented populations in research. She serves as PI of the NIMHD U54 *Obesity Health Disparities Research Center (OHDRC)*, previously funded since 2003 as an NIMHD P60 Center of Excellence. The OHDRC focuses on the theme of obesity and obesity-related health disparities across the Life Course. Dr. Fouad has contributed to the science of health disparities through major studies to identify variability in cancer care and outcomes based on race, gender, and age. She has developed nationally emulated models in recruitment and retention of minorities in clinical trials and innovative community-based approaches to reducing racial disparities in breast and cervical cancer. She has been the driving force behind interdisciplinary research efforts for understanding problems related to cancer screening and cancer risk factors in the Deep South. Her work in translating science into practice has improved health outcomes in minority and other vulnerable populations. As a direct result of her research projects, racial disparities in breast cancer screening in Alabama Black Belt counties were virtually eliminated, as were disparities in access to cancer care. Dr. Fouad has also played a prominent leadership role, both regionally and nationally, in promoting diversity in medical education. Dr. Fouad has led in the efforts to promote minority students, researchers, and leaders through joint programs with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving academic institutions. She serves as PI of the NIDDK-funded UAB STEP-UP: Promoting Diversity through Mentored Research Experiences, whose goal is to enhance the diversity of the nation's research workforce by providing mentored research training to promising undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical, clinical and behavioral research.

Session I
Planning for sustainability in a time of uncertainty; Getting to yes in the age of no
(Faculty Conference Room S1-342, School Lobby)

Mathew Sadof, MD worked to develop sustainable systems of care and further medical education for medically and socially fragile children over the past two decades. Dr. Sadof started locally working with families and physicians to help identify needs and implement new models of care based upon best practices. Over time he began broadening the impact of his experience working at both a local regional and national level to understand how to care for Medically Complex Children and Children with Asthma.

Dr. Sadof was a key contributor and co-creator of the READY (Reducing and Eliminating Asthma Disparity in Youth) Program. This was a NIEH/HUD/CMMI funded multi- year collaboration between the Mass Dept of Public Health and Boston University School of Medicine to measure the family impact and health outcomes of an evidence based community health worker asthma intervention program linked to the patient's medical home. After completion of the round 1 CMS funding this work and the Green Healthy Homes Social Investment Bond Initiative, a center for excellence for asthma home visiting in the 1115 Medicaid waiver ACO effort in Western MA was established. As the representative for Massachusetts and serving on the steering committee in the American Academy of Pediatrics a Medical Home Chapter Champion Program on Asthma and Allergies (MHCCPAA), Dr. Sadof was part of a network of 50 chapter champions who work together to disseminate of best practices that implement NHLBI asthma guidelines within medical homes across the country. Dr. Sadof also developed a statewide asthma curriculum for physicians in training.

In 2001, Dr. Sadof founded the Medical Home program for Children with Special Health Care Needs at Baystate Children's Hospital that began as part of the MADPH Title V care coordination program. This effort was successful in creating a forum for ongoing training and dialogue for physicians, physicians in training, medical students, and other practitioners regarding quality comprehensive primary care for children and young adults with special health care needs. This work lead to the development of the Mass Alliance for Coordinated Care/4C a 6 million round 2 CMMI joint project between Baystate Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center. This grant created a regional consultative program for families with medically complex children delivering collaborative coordinated complex care composed of pediatricians who specialize in complex care, nurse coordinators, social workers, family navigators, developmental behavioral pediatricians, psychiatrists, and nutritionists. This work reduced costs and improved patient satisfaction and was supported by a cloud based care plan that was used to help store and coordinate care.

Session II
Lessons of Community Engagement: The Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative (WHBC) and Infant Mortality in Worcester

(Albert Sherman Center, 5th floor, Large Conference Room AS5-2072)

Tasmina Hydery, PharmD, MBA, BCGP is a Clinical Pharmacist for Commonwealth Medicine and Vice Chair of the Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative. She is the principal investigator for "Worcester, a Baby Box City: Interdisciplinary Lessons in Community Engagement," a project supported by the Remillard Family Community Service Award. She also serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMass Medical School and Adjunct Professor at MCPHS University - Boston. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Masters in Business Administration from Boston College Carroll School of Management.

Heather Alker MD MPH is board certified in both Obstetrics & Gynecology and Preventive Medicine. She is an instructor in Public Health at UMass Amherst, where she teaches in the MPH program. She works at UMass Medical School as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in the Preventive Medicine division. She is a member of the Healthy Baby Collaborative working on reducing infant mortality in Worcester. She is Chair of the Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health at Massachusetts Medical Society. She graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine.

Sara G. Shields MD, MS, FAAFP is a Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMass and the chair of the Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative (WHBC). The Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative is a passionate and diverse coalition of Maternal and Child Health Professionals and Community Leaders who seek to improve health outcomes for babies and their families – by engaging and working collaboratively with community to reduce health inequities – so that Worcester’s infant mortality rate is decreased and every baby and family have the opportunity to thrive and prosper. One of the group's recent projects is the Baby Box Initiative, to deliver free safe sleep spaces and language-appropriate educational materials for young families to Worcester's diverse population.

Dr. Cathy Violette received her DNP in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts, Worcester in 2018. Prior to this, she received her MS/WHNP from the University of Cincinnati as a women’s health nurse practitioner. She received a BSN at Worcester State University and a Diploma of Nursing from The Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. She is an Instructor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, teaching in the Resident Education Program. She earned national certification in ambulatory women’s health in 1995 and advanced fetal monitoring in 2013. Cathy’s DNP Scholarly Project focused on development of a Prenatal Health Notebook for women with fetal anomaly. Her area of research interest focuses on care of patients with fetal anomaly and their preparations for parenting.

As vice chairperson of the Worcester Healthy Babies Collaborative from 2016-2018, Cathy worked with the multi-agency collaborative to address Worcester’s disproportionate infant mortality rate. Patient-centered care for the populations of Worcester is a focus of this collaborative. Cathy provides clinical instruction for nurse practitioners and physician providers regarding High Risk pregnancy care.

Session III

Engaging African Immigrants in Addressing HIV Disparities within the Population

(Albert Sherman Center, 7th floor, Large Conference Room AS7–2072)

Dara Oloyede, MPH, is a Nigerian-American immigrant and Colorado transplant living in Boston. She holds a Masters of Public Health from Boston University in Maternal & Child Health and Program Management. She is excited to be a part of Tulumbe! because of her love of the African diaspora and working with African immigrants to organize and drive improvements in population health. During her free time, she likes to be outdoors, attend community events, and explore the Boston community.

Mbita Mbao, LICSW is a psychotherapist in private practice and works with adults and older adults experiencing mental health and substance use problems. She graduated from Rhode Island College with a Master’s Degree in Clinical Social Work and has been practicing in private practice for over 10 years. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in Social Work at Simmons University in Boston and her focus is on health and mental health disparities in African immigrants. Mbita’s interest in community-based action research led her to partner with Tulumbe! to bring awareness, education and research on HIV related issues affecting African immigrants.

Lorraine Anyango, is an HIV advocate and the Tulumbe! Project Coordinator. She has worked across a number of domestic and global programs that are advocating for, improving the lives of, and providing opportunities for young people around the world. She particularly focuses on advocating for policies that impact the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people, and policies that impact people living with HIV.

Session IV

Parent Engagement and Empowerment: a community-based participatory trial to prevent childhood obesity in low-income children

(Albert Sherman Center Lecture Hall/Auditorium, 2nd floor, AS2-2102)

Alyssa Aftosmes-Tobio is the Project Manager for the Communities for Healthy Living (CHL) project at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. CHL is a 5-year pragmatic trial with stepped wedge design that aims to reduce childhood obesity through parent empowerment. CHL works exclusively with Head Start families in the Greater Boston area. Alyssa oversees the day-to-day operations of the study, including the implementation of CHL's parent health and empowerment program: Parents Connect for Healthy Living. After earning her Master's Degree in Public Health at Boston University, Alyssa worked for two years at a small non-profit providing crisis intervention services and counseling to survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, as well as managing the agency's data collection and reporting. She joined the Chan School in 2011 as a program coordinator for the graduate program in Public Health Nutrition. Alyssa is committed to supporting creative solutions to health challenges that disproportionately impact families with limited resources, and enjoys the time she spends in the field at partner Head Start sites.