

2020-2021 Health Disparities Research Education Program (HDREP) SCHOLAR DIRECTORY



Mudasir (Roohi) Andrabi
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**HDREP 2020
RCMAR**

Dr. Andrabi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing at the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing. She completed her graduate studies at the University of Delhi, earning a Master's degree in Adult Health and Gerontology. She received her PhD in Health Education and Health Promotion from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2019. Dr. Andrabi is working collaboratively with other researchers at the University of Alabama on health disparities research among African Americans living in rural Alabama. Her area of research interest is in Cardiovascular and neurorehabilitation.



Teresa Boitano, MD
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**HDREP 2020
MSM/TU/UAB
Partnership**

Dr. Boitano is a fellow in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at UAB. Dr. Boitano earned a B.S. in Biochemistry at New Mexico State University in 2011. She then spent time working with an organization called the International Justice Mission that addresses issues of human trafficking across the globe. Dr. Boitano completed her medical school at the University of New Mexico in 2016. During medical school, she worked in Uganda with an economic empowerment program for women with HIV. After graduating from medical school, she completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Alabama and Birmingham. As a gynecologic oncology fellow she is interested in improving disparities, quality of care, and health outcomes of women with gynecologic cancers.

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Sarah Gallups, PhD, MPH
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Dr. Sarah Gallups joined the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing in August 2020 as an Assistant Professor. She received her BSN and MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Gallups' scholarship has emerged from her community and public health experiences at the local and international level, with a focus on addressing access to health care among vulnerable populations and promoting more equitable partnerships among patients, providers and communities. She is extremely interested in understanding and addressing health disparities and the use of community-engaged research methods in nursing science. Her research has focused on patient navigation in cancer care. Her PhD dissertation, "Identifying the Interpersonal Communication Components of Breast Cancer Care Patient Navigation," utilized a community-engaged approach, concept mapping, to better understand the key interpersonal communication skills and behaviors of patient navigators that promote improved cancer care outcomes.



Shena Gazaway, PhD, MS
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**HDREP 2020
Augusta University
NINR R01 Diversity
Supplement**

Dr. Gazaway is an Assistant Professor at Augusta University's College of Nursing in Athens, GA. She earned her BSN and MSN from Brenau University in 2005 and 2009 respectively. She earned her PhD in Nursing Research from Augusta University in 2017. Dr. Gazaway's community health nursing practice, life experiences, and her dissertation process inspired her research interests in rural African American utilization of palliative care and end-life-services. As a scholar, she plans to increase her knowledge and comfort in areas related to minority aging. The goal is to create community-developed programs and tools to positively impact elderly African Americans' health disparities in serious illness and at end-of-life.

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Brandon Gines, PhD
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Dr. Gines is an Assistant Professor within the Department of Chemistry at Tuskegee University (TU). He earned his BS in Biochemistry from Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL and his PhD in Integrative Biosciences from TU. He joined TU as an Adjunct Faculty following the completion of his degree and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 2020. His research focus involves understanding mechanisms of disease through metabolomics. He is currently conducting collaborative work in breast cancer, dementia, and natural product chemistry. One of Dr. Gines' overarching goal is to improve methods that will aid in answering the most fundamental and complex questions of disease research as well as bring metabolomic expertise and collaboration to Tuskegee University.



Jessica Grayson, MD, MS
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**HDREP 2020
OHDRC**

Dr. Grayson is an Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Alabama Birmingham. Prior to medical school she obtained a Masters of Science in Rural and Community Health. She completed medical school at UAB School of Medicine in 2013. She completed Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery residency in 2018. Following completion of residency, she completed fellowship in Rhinology and Anterior Skull Base Surgery in Sydney, Australia and returned to UAB as faculty. As a part of her clinical research, she mentors and guides 20 residents and multiple medical students in their clinical research endeavors. Her research interests include health disparities (race, gender, and socioeconomic status) in the etiology and management of spontaneous cerebrospinal fluid leaks. Other interests include access to care limitations for patients with head and neck neoplasms and the inter-play between socioeconomic status, racial and cultural differences, as well as distance from treating medical center on the outcomes of cancer treatment.

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Emily Grenn, MD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
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**HDREP 2020
OHDR**

Dr. Grenn is a third-year General Surgery resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center currently working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the NIH T32 Training Grant entitled “*Hypertension and Cardiorenal Diseases Research Training Program*” under the Director, Dr. Granger and Primary Investigator, Dr. Kutcher. She received her Doctorate of Medicine degree from University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. Her current research interests include the association of chronic stress and development of PTSD and coagulation disorders following trauma, with specific focus on the role of obesity.



Erin Harrell, PhD, MS
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**HDREP 2020
RCMAR**

Dr. Harrell is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama. She earned her PhD in Cognitive Psychology with an emphasis in human factors and aging from Florida State University. Dr. Harrell’s dissertation inspired her to expand her research from adherence to health behaviors with the potential to slow or reverse cognitive decline to looking at how stress across the lifespan may be accelerating the aging process in older African Americans and how racism related stress may play an intricate role in this process. Dr. Harrell is also interested in looking at how racism related stress may be impacting African American caregiver’s decision-making when it comes to determining health treatments for their loved ones at end of life.

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Robert Hollis, MD, MSPH
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Dr. Hollis is a colorectal surgeon within the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery. A native of Dothan, AL, Dr. Hollis completed his undergraduate studies at Washington and Lee University before returning to Alabama for medical school at UAB. Dr. Hollis stayed at UAB for general surgery residency. During residency, he dedicated two additional years to training in outcomes research and obtained a Master's of Science in Public Health at the UAB School of Public Health. Following residency, Dr. Hollis completed a colorectal surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. The research that Dr. Hollis performs examines health disparities in surgery and aims to develop novel interventions to eliminate these disparities. He has experience in the evaluation of surgical guidelines and national quality metrics. Additional research interests include improving outcomes for patients with a new ostomy and reducing postoperative recurrences of Crohn's disease.



Gwendolyn Hooper, PhD
Associate Professor
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**HDREP 2020
RCMAR**

Dr. Hooper is an Associate Professor in the Capstone College of Nursing at the University of Alabama. She received her PhD in nursing from the University of Kentucky in 2013 and joined the faculty at The University of Alabama as an Assistant Professor 2014. Dr. Hooper holds dual board certifications as a family and urology nurse practitioner and is a fellow of the Academy of Urologic Nurses and Associates. Her clinical and research career have focused on raising awareness and improving the care and quality of life of men with prostate cancer and the education and treatment of women with pelvic floor disorders.

2020-2021 Health Disparities Research Education Program (HDREP) SCHOLAR DIRECTORY



Nathaniel Jones, MD
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**HDREP 2020
University of South
Alabama**

Dr. Jones is an Assistant Professor at the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute in Gynecologic Oncology. He earned his medical degree at East Tennessee State University in 2010 and completed residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, North Carolina in 2014. Dr. Jones has accumulated a wide breadth of research experience, both clinical and basic science. He is a published author of over 20 peer-reviewed articles and is credited with over 40 presentations at national and international meetings. His early career research interests have focused on the molecular and genomic characterization of gynecologic tumors, specifically uterine malignancies and rare tumors. Since he joined the Mitchell Cancer Institute his focus has expanded to better understand the molecular and genetic determinants of racial healthcare inequity in gynecologic cancer care and outcomes in the Deep South. Highlights of his recent contributions include identification of immune phenotypes in endometrial cancer using immune checkpoint expression, microsatellite instability, and tumor mutational burden, as well as describing differences in molecular phenotypes and tumor immunogenicity between black and white women.



Lauren Kois, PhD
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RCMAR**

Dr. Kois is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alabama and a core Psychology-Law faculty within its Clinical Psychology PhD Program. She received her PhD in Psychology (Clinical Forensic focus) from John Jay College and the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. She completed a Clinical Psychology Internship at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, with rotations at Butner Federal Correctional Complex (corrections and forensics) and Central Regional Hospital (forensics and neuropsychology). Her primary area of research has focused on criminal forensic assessment, specifically competence to stand trial and mental state at the time of the offense. She is the Founder and Co-Director of the Alabama Forensic Assessment Research and Evaluation (Alabama FARE) Project, which is funded by the Alabama Department of Mental Health. She is licensed to practice psychology in Alabama and has over 10 years of forensic mental health experience. Given disproportionate BIPOC contact with the criminal justice system, high rates of mental health and substance use disorders among criminal justice populations, and the growing need to address aging among individuals who are under correctional supervision, Dr. Kois is highly motivated to engage in HDREP's research training, grant intensives, and courses on bioethics, biostatistics, epidemiology, and minority aging.

2020-2021 Health Disparities Research Education Program (HDREP) SCHOLAR DIRECTORY



Carolina Landeen, MD

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**HDREP 2020
Creighton University**

Dr. Landeen is part of the Pulmonary & Critical Care Faculty and an Assistant Professor at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City, Mexico. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at University of Iowa - Des Moines where she also served as Chief Resident for the Department of Medicine. She completed her Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship at Creighton University Medical Center. Her current areas of research interest include health disparities, lung cancer screening and lung nodules. She is also interested in nutrition and its impact on pulmonary disease.



Lisa McElroy, MD, PhD

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**HDREP 2020
American Society of
Transplant Surgeons
(ASTS)**

Dr. McElroy is an Assistant Professor of Abdominal Transplant Surgery at Duke University. She received her MD from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Health Services and Outcomes Research from Northwestern University. She completed her clinical fellowship in abdominal transplant surgery at the University of Michigan. Her research has examined how processes in care affect clinical outcomes of complex surgical patients, as well as dissemination of engineering-based methods such as fault tree analysis and failure modes and effects analysis for assessment and improvement of surgical care. Dr. McElroy's recent work focuses on the contribution of structural bias to disparities in access to solid organ transplant. Her current project examines the influence of center-level barriers on racial disparities in living donor kidney transplantation. Her long-term interests are in the development and dissemination of best practices in transplant surgery and improving the quality and equity of transplant care for underrepresented and disadvantaged populations with end stage organ disease. She is a 2020 American Journal of Transplantation Editorial Fellow and a 2020 recipient of the Duke Center for Research to Advance Healthcare Equity Career Development Award and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Harold Amos Award.

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Constance Mobley, MD, PhD
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HDREP 2020
American Society of
Transplant Surgeons
(ASTS)

Dr. Constance Mobley earned her MD and PhD from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 2003. She completed her General Surgery residency and fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at the University of Michigan. Subsequently, she went on to complete a fellowship in Abdominal Multi-Organ Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. In 2014, Dr. Mobley joined the staff of Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX and is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Mobley is a board-certified surgeon in surgical critical care, and transplant surgery. She is currently the Medical Director of the Surgical & Liver ICU and Program Director for the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship. She serves as an active member on several hospital committees and professional societies and is a current member of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee. Dr. Mobley's areas of special interests include management of the critically ill liver failure patient, methodology to improve liver transplant success in high MELD patients, and management of cirrhotic cardiomyopathy and post-transplant cardiomyopathy. She is actively involved in several clinical research trials spanning transplant immunology, liver disease, and support devices to both prolong donor organ utility, and bridge to liver transplant.



Myles Moody, PhD
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Dr. Moody is an Assistant Professor for the Sociology Department at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Morehouse College 2013 prior to earning his Master of Arts degree in Sociology at the University of Memphis in 2015. Dr. Moody earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Kentucky in May 2020. His research interests include: medical sociology, racism and health, mental health, racial disparities in health, and health equity. Dr. Moody's current research examines how vicarious racism-related stress impacts the health of Black Americans.

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Candice Myers, PhD, MS, MA
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Dr. Myers is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Social Determinants and Health Disparities Laboratory at Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC). She obtained her PhD in Sociology from Louisiana State University and a Master's of Science in Clinical Research from Tulane University. Her research focuses on food insecurity as a key social determinant of health and source of health disparities, with a specific focus on its complex relationship with obesity and poor cardiovascular health in adults. She has received funding for her research from the Louisiana Clinical & Translational Science Center (LA CaTS), funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) via the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (F32).



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Dr. Shannon is the Associate Dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health at Tuskegee University. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in 1986, a Master of Science Degree in Nursing (1992) and a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree (2011) from Troy University at Montgomery. Dr. Shannon has more than 25 years of experience as faculty and administrator in the Associate Degree Nursing Program of the Alabama Community College System. Her decision to transition to the university setting was based on a professional goal and passion to participate in research that would impact patient outcomes globally. Dr. Shannon's research trajectory is to develop programs related to health disparities identified in the Black Belt of Alabama with the intent of incorporating these programs into high school curricula. It is her belief that early intervention is the best approach to improving outcomes.

2020-2021 Health Disparities Research Education Program (HDREP) SCHOLAR DIRECTORY



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Dr. Sutzko was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and grew up in California, North Carolina and Florida before moving to Michigan for her vascular surgery residency. She received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Florida, graduating with a degree in microbiology and cell science with a minor in chemistry. She went on to attend medical school at the University of South Florida, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha. During her research time, Dr. Sutzko completed a post-doctoral health services research fellowship at the University of Michigan's Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation under a National Heart and Lung & Blood Institute T32 grant, where Dr. Nicholas Osborne served as her primary mentor. She joined UAB as an assistant professor in August of 2019 and is also the associate program director for the UAB vascular surgery residency. Her research interests are in health services research, specifically in identifying real world practices to improve vascular surgery outcomes and eliminate disparities among patients undergoing open and endovascular procedures. Her current research relates to defining appropriate quality of care in vascular surgery, and cost effectiveness of vascular interventions for patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and chronic limb-threatening ischemia (CLTI).