



SUNY
DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH Pulse

Office of the SVPR

Dear Research Community,

Since our first Research Pulse last December, many faculty, trainees, and staff have made great strides in advancing the research enterprise at SUNY Downstate. In this second issue of Research Pulse, we highlight many activities including:

- ❖ A new and ongoing series of interactions with UAlbany and SUNY Upstate on Health Disparities related to the COVID pandemic (p2)
- ❖ New programs from the SVPR Office (p3)
- ❖ The trajectory and research of MD-PhD student Robert Colbourn (p4) and postdoc fellow Portia Thomas (p6)
- ❖ Recently funded new grants and clinical trials (p10)
- ❖ Reorganization of RF (p11) and updates (p12)
- ❖ CTSC news (p16)
- ❖ Two new members of the SVPR Office team (p17)

I hope that you enjoy reading these updates and conclude that we are making progress towards the goals I outlined in the first Research Pulse: we are working to ensure that we have an environment that facilitates your ability to make discoveries by: providing support structures for trainees, faculty, and programs (including spearheading new program and training grant applications); fostering collaborations and networks within Downstate and with external partners; and reducing administrative burden and roadblocks.

Please don't hesitate to contact us in the Office of the SVP for Research and/or the Office of Research Administration (see contact info on final page, p17) with any comments, issues, or ideas.

David Christini, Ph.D.
SVP for Research

THREE CAMPUS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Achieving Health Equity Through Eliminating Health Disparities in a 21st Century Pandemic

January 8, 15 & 22, 2021 (Friday at 10 AM)



UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY
State University of New York



UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

COVID-19 disproportionately affected the Latinx and Black communities. Governor Cuomo charged the University of Albany President Dr. Havidan Rodriguez with organizing a team of health experts dedicated to researching the environmental, socioeconomic and occupational factors that contribute to the disproportionate ways COVID-19 continues to affect Latinx and Black communities in New York state.

In response to this charge, the Vice President for Research at the University of Albany, Dr. Dias, partnered with fellow VPR's Dr. Christini of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and Dr. Amberg of SUNY Upstate Medical Center to develop a shared research agenda focussed on health equity by strengthening existing collaborations and building new ones.

The Three Campus Community Conversation was the first phase of starting to build a research agenda, bringing together members of the community with researchers from SUNY Upstate, Downstate and Albany for a conversation and to identify overlapping research and practice interests. The conversations were carried out through a series of three virtual sessions held on successive Fridays in January 2021 beginning on January 8, 2021, and ending on Friday, January 22, 2021. Overall, across the three events over 200 individuals from the three campuses and the community participated.

Panel presentations on January 8 featured two panels, titled *Understanding the role of trust in mitigating COVID-19 related health disparities (Panel 1)*, and *Differential impacts on COVID-19, and social determinants of health interventions to achieve health equity (Panel 2)*.

The next event (January 15) was small group conversations. Campus and community partners participated in nine virtual small group discussions focused on areas of common and complementary research and practice interests and expertise. The topics covered determinants of COVID-19 minority health disparities, COVID-19 disease progression and medical treatments, multi-level services and interventions, health and social policy interventions, methodologies and measurements, and impacts of COVID-19.

At the final event (January 22), community partners, campus members and the VPRs reconvened for a joint discussion on research questions and public policy challenges that emerged from the small group discussions. The small group discussions were summarized by facilitators from each group. This closing panel was successful in reflecting on the importance of developing a campus-community integrated health equity research agenda.

Downstate community was well represented at all the three events. Drs. Pamela Straker, Tonya Taylor, Jack DeHovitz and SPH student Chaneé Massiah reported out on their small group discussions. In addition to serving as facilitators, Drs. Tracey Wilson and Ayesha Joshi represented Downstate in the organizing committee.

The report with recommendations emerging from the three campus conversation is available on the UAlbany [website](#). This report will guide developing a shared research agenda and lay the foundation for the next phases of the VPRs' plan.

In its mission to strengthen and grow the research portfolio at Downstate, our office continues to launch new initiatives. We have implemented the Grant Consultancy/Mentorship Financial Support and the Clinical Trials Research Administrators Program, which were described in the last issue.

Together with the Human Research Advisory Committee and the Laboratory Research Advisory Committee, we designed and launched a Seed Grant Funding Program. Also in the works is the Equipment Monitoring Program. You can read more about all the SVPR Office initiatives on the [Research](#) webpage.

Seed Grant Program



Designed by FreePik

The Seed Grant Program aims to advance the research enterprise via targeted investments (up to \$400,000) in projects that are deemed to be competitive for federal extramural research support. For the 2021 Program, faculty can apply for either of two tracks:

Track 1: Projects focused on health equity or health disparities (as described by NIH, NIMHD) from **individuals or teams** of DHSU faculty investigators.

Track 2: Projects in any area from **teams (two or more)** of DHSU faculty investigators who have not received federal (or other substantial) funding together in the last 4 years.

Research in either track can be of any modality (laboratory, clinical, computational [including secondary data analyses], or epidemiological [quantitative and qualitative]), as long as it is appropriate for a federal funding mechanism. Projects submitted as collaborations (encouraged for Track 1; required for Track 2) may help to create synergies among DHSU investigators and spur researchers to target large and multi-disciplinary funding programs with increased impact and visibility.

Equipment Monitoring Program

Temperature sensitive equipment such as freezers and incubators require monitoring and notification systems in case of malfunction to avoid loss of precious biological samples, sometimes collected over several years. Downstate will use E-Control Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of LABRepCo, LLC to monitor freezers and incubators. This system will provide:

- ❖ Wireless 24/7 Monitoring
- ❖ Ability to view system from anywhere via computer, smart device or tablet
- ❖ Alarm Notification (either by text message or email; to PI and/or designee)
- ❖ Paperless Reports
- ❖ Custom Dashboard listing units monitored, current measurements, active alarms etc.
- ❖ Customized reports including daily summary and executive summary

Installation of monitoring devices is expected to start soon. Please reach out to our office at svp-research-office@downstate.edu if you have equipment to be monitored that you have not already brought to our attention.



ROBERT COLBOURN

MD-PhD Student

“It’s been a great joy to spend the last 8 years at Downstate. My entire PhD has been a highlight” says Robert Colbourn, a student of SUNY Downstate’s MD-PhD Program. Colbourn is currently in the clinical years of medical school and is planning on graduating by May 2022. His research is focused on how the volume of the brain’s extracellular space (ECS) changes during seizures. Colbourn’s hope is that his research could help open another possible avenue for the treatment of seizures and eventually sees himself in a career that combines clinical work, research and teaching.

EARLY INFLUENCES

Colbourn’s older brother was his first major influence in getting him to pursue science. Growing up, his brother had a keen interest in biology and science fiction. “Ever since we were kids, I looked up to him and thought that everything he was interested in was fascinating.” Once he began pursuing these subjects himself, his interests in the

field continued to grow. Colbourn went to Stuyvesant High School and later Brooklyn College for undergrad. During his undergrad he worked in the lab of Dr. Richard Magliozzo and under Dr. Robert Arceci at Johns Hopkins where he was able to learn basic cell biology techniques that would become useful in later research.

RESEARCH

Colbourn’s PhD research is focused on how the volume of the brain’s extracellular space (ECS) changes during seizures. Colbourn worked in the lab of Dr. Sabina Hrabetova’s, and attributes a large portion of his growth and success to the experience of working under Dr. Hrabetova.

“I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Sabina Hrabetova and be a part of her lab for five years. She has been an incredible mentor, and provided me with the most trusting and supportive environment I have ever experienced.”

During his time in Dr. Hrabetova's lab, Colbourn was exposed to electrophysical and optical techniques he had never seen in action before. He viewed the challenge to learn all these new tools as an exciting puzzle that sparked his interest immediately.

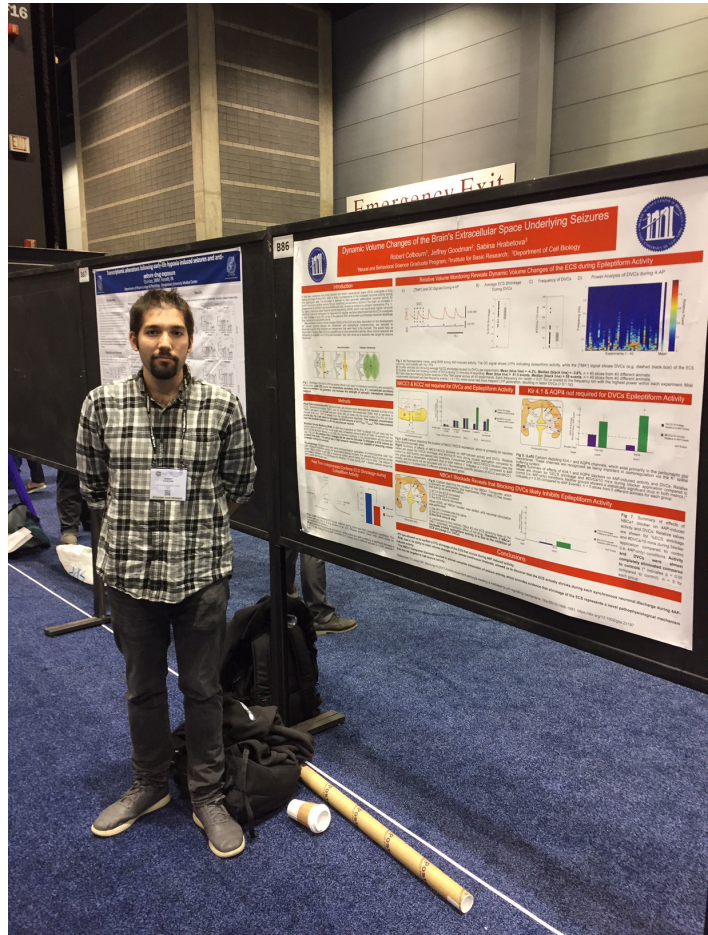
Working on this project led Colbourn to present his work at conferences such as 'Society for Neuroscience', and 'Monitoring Molecules in Neuroscience', where he gained the opportunity to speak one-on-one with some influential figures in his field. Colbourn realized that "the exposure helped convince me that my work had widespread appeal, and it made me realize how my work fits into the bigger picture of neural physiology."

Colbourn's work titled "Rapid Volume Pulsation of the Extracellular Space Coincides with Epileptiform Activity in Mice and Depends on the NBCe1 Transporter" was recently accepted for publication in the Journal of Physiology.

ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS

As someone nearing the end of the Downstate's program, Colbourn has some advice for future students: "I would caution people against forcing themselves to stay in their comfort zones. Just because you worked in one particular field does not mean that you should limit yourself to that forever."

"It is daunting at first to try something new" Colbourn says, "but it can be highly rewarding if you end up finding something you truly enjoy."



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OUTSIDE THE LAB

In his spare time, Colbourn enjoys reading books, learning about the history of metal music (his favorite genre) and hiking with his brother. "I love going camping and hiking with my older brother (...) it is a relaxing experience that I believe is necessary sometimes, especially when I am usually surrounded by buildings and busy streets."

PORTIA THOMAS

Postdoctoral Fellow



“These women looked like me, young and Black; thus, I was saddened by their words but drawn to join the fight against HIV, especially in vulnerable and marginalized populations.”

Portia Thomas is completing her postdoctoral fellowship at SUNY Downstate and has been preparing to become an independent researcher over the course of her ten-year academic career.

She is from Montgomery, Alabama and attended Auburn University Montgomery (AUM) where she completed her bachelor's in Nursing in 2006. Colbourn's research focus is centered around HIV Prevention among vulnerable populations, and she hopes to one day manage her own research program as a nurse scientist.

RESEARCH & INFLUENCES

Thomas' research focus became clear to her twelve years ago. Thomas says, “My research nurse experience in 2009 informed my research focus (...) “in particular, one observational study following HIV-positive pregnant women was most influential – not because of the study design or purpose – but because of the stories participants openly shared with me.”

Thomas was inspired to join the fight against HIV after her conversations with the participants. She discovered that HIV public health prevention interventions and strategies had failed them, and felt compelled to make a difference. “These women looked like me, young and Black; thus, I was saddened by their words but drawn to join the fight against HIV, especially in vulnerable and marginalized populations.”

She hopes her research can identify barriers that prevent racial and sexual minorities from implementing HIV risk reduction practices and plans on developing and testing behavioral interventions that reduce HIV incidence among this population.

IN THE LAB

Thomas says that “the opportunity to train under Sabina Hirshfeld was the primary reason I came to SUNY Downstate”.

“ Dr. Hirshfield’s dedication to mentorship is contagious.”

Thomas admires Dr. Hirshfield’s extensive experience in e-Health HIV intervention research in racial and sexual minorities and hopes her work can have a similar impact.

“I am amazed at the number of studies Dr. Hirshfield is a part of” Thomas says, “Dr. Hirshfield’s dedication to mentorship is contagious, and this grant has allowed me to take a role in leading and mentoring.”

FUTURE PLANS

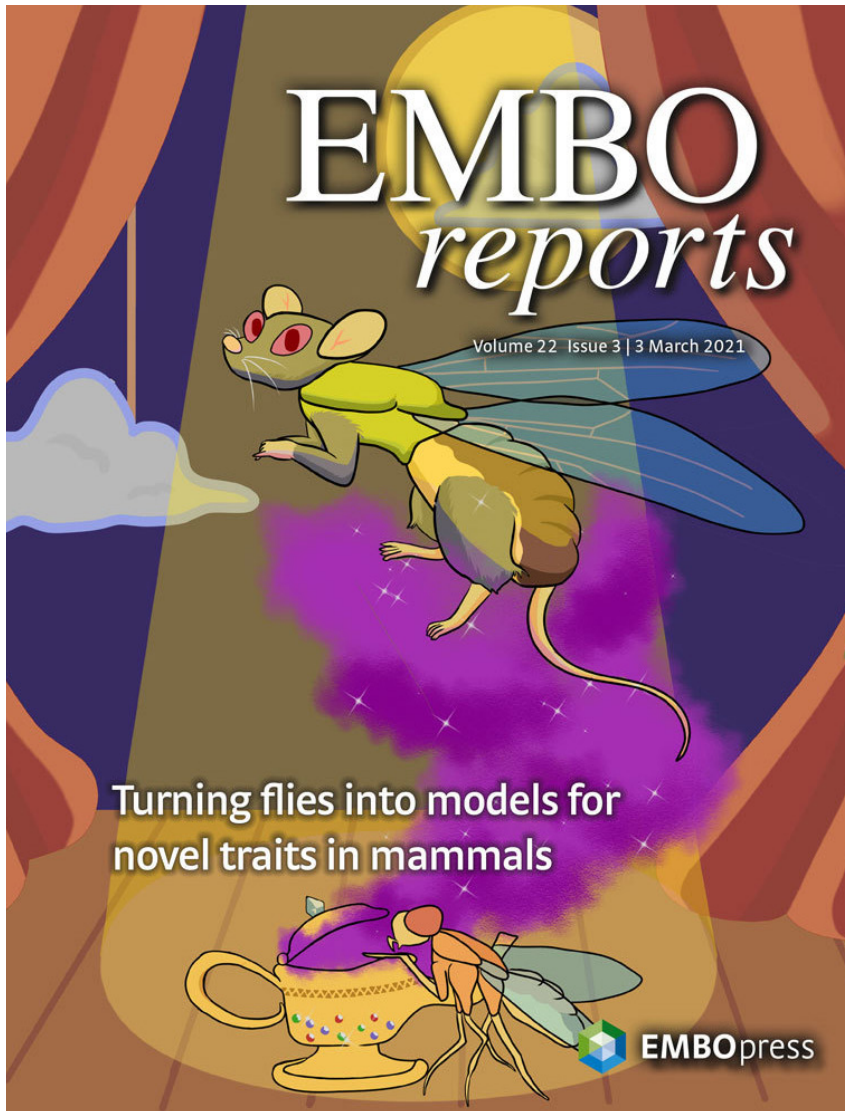
In five years, Thomas would like to be managing her own research program as a nurse scientist, as she implements multiple studies in either an academic setting or public health agency. The journey to becoming a research nurse hasn’t always been the easiest. Thomas says that balance between working and going to school full-time was her greatest challenge, “I persevered by surrounding myself with a small but strong support system”. She credits her family, friends and peers for providing this support.

ADVICE FOR NEW TRAINEES

And as someone with a nearly ten-year academic career, Thomas has some advice for future trainees: “The path you envisioned for yourself will not go as planned, and that is okay.” Thomas says, “Be willing to adjust. The adjustment will be uncomfortable, and you won’t like it, but it will all work out in the end.”

OUTSIDE THE LAB

Outside the lab, Thomas enjoys spending time with family, especially her parents, three nephews and two neices. She enjoys watching movies and shows on Hulu or Netflix.



Janice Brissette and Jian Li's article on "[Modeling by disruption and a selected-for partner for the nude locus](#)" is the cover of EMBO Reports March issue.

The paper describes flash-forward genetics (the paper's approach), which converts tractable organisms into genetic models for traits that they never evolved - traits that evolved in lineages of life that are unsuited to forward genetics ("intractable" organisms). The approach prompts tractable organisms to acquire traits of intractable organisms incrementally and thus to experience a kind of "flash forward" along another evolutionary path.

Flash-forward genetics is represented by the transformative powers of Alladin's lamp. A fruit fly acquires some traits of a mouse after being subjected to the lamp's powers.

Cover concept: Sydney Rodriguez and Ki Won (Ambrose) Kwak.
Cover illustration: Sydney Rodriguez

Dr. John Danias: SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund Winner

A new gene therapy approach developed by SUNY Downstate Empire Innovation Program Professor John Danias acts on specific molecular targets in the eye to reduce intraocular pressure for long-term, sustained treatment of glaucoma. This solution produces fewer side effects than current therapeutics (eye drops, oral medications, surgery) and addresses problems of patient compliance.

Mirimus Selected as Grand Prize Winner of the XPRIZE Rapid COVID Testing Competition

Mirimus, located at SUNY Downstate's Biotechnology Incubator, was selected as the grand prize winner for its innovative high-volume COVID-19 PCR testing with SalivaClear™, a three-stage surveillance and individual reflex testing strategy to monitor and detect infection in populations by testing people in groups called pools. An [article](#) highlighting Mirimus was recently published in the Bklyner.

Alumni Association Full Year Research Scholarship for Medical Students

Takisha Morancy won the first place prize of \$30,000 for her project "Symmetrical Facial Nerve Reanimation in Rats"

Christopher T. George won the second place prize of \$10,000 for his project "Revitalizing Early-Stage Melanoma Treatment: Using Patient And Tumor Characteristics to Predict Distant Metastis"

Successfully Funded!

Subodh Saggi	Medicine	Pharma	11/2020-11/2021	A Natural History Study of Patients with Biopsy-proven Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis and Nephrotic Range Proteinuria Who Are of Recent African Ancestry or Have 2 APOL1 Risk Alleles
David Kaufman	SOHP	R01 AHRQ	01/2021-12/2022	Evaluating and Enhancing Health Information Technology for COVID-19 Response Workflow in a Specialized COVID-19 in a Medically Underserved Community
Juan Marcos Alarcon	Pathology	R25 NINDS	01/2021-12/2025	REACH Pipeline Summer Research Experience for Minority and Underrepresented High School and Undergraduate Students
Subodh Saggi	Medicine	Pharma	11/2020-11/2021	A Phase 2a, Open-label, Single-arm, 2-Part Study of the Efficacy, Safety and Pharmacokinetics of VX-147 in Adults with APOL1-dependent Focal Segmental
Raavi Gupta	Pathology	Pharma	01/2021-01/2022	Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy of Emricasan in Symptomatic Outpatients Diagnosed with Mild-COVID-19.
Seah H. Lim	Medicine	Pharma	12/2020-11/2021	A Phase 2 Randomized Study Comparing Prophylactic Rifazimin with Ciprofloxacin for Patients Undergoing Induction Chemotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Janet E. Rosenbaum	Epidemiology	Spencer Foundation	02/2021-07/2021	Research Communications Plan for 'Suspending Society's Obligations: Adolescent School Outcomes and Risk Behaviors Under Differing School Discipline Policies'
Jeffrey Birnbaum	Pediatrics	Stonewall Foundation	03/2021-12/2021	Transgender Womens Project
John Danias	Ophthalmology	SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund		Gene Therapy for Glaucoma

New grants funded between November 2020 and March 2021.

Office of Research Administration (ORA)

Many exciting things have been happening at the ORA; changes to the organizational structure, new roles, new hires as well as recent promotions.

Congratulations Melissa, Ethan and Gary for their promotions. We welcome David Garner and Meredith Brenner as Sponsored Program Administrators and Liliyan Nigam as Clinical Trials Regulatory Coordinator. All positions in green are new and will be filled within the next fiscal year.

IACUC and IRB offices have new personnel as well. Amy Fish recently started as the IACUC Director. Amy comes with almost 28 years IACUC experience. Before Downstate, she worked at Rutgers University as IACUC Manager. She has also worked at Georgetown and Johns' Hopkins Universities.

Laura Henderson joins the IRB office as an Associate IRB Administrator. She has several years of experience and has worked in predominantly research as well as healthcare/academic institutions hybrid settings.

Additionally:

- ❖ We have recently outsourced our clinical trial budget preparation to the WIRB Copernicus Group;
- ❖ Pivot has been launched and is live;
- ❖ We are looking into exploring options for an eRequisition cloud-based system

Each of these are described in more detail on the next page. These changes will significantly ease administrative burden and streamline processes. If you would like for RF leadership to attend a faculty meeting for your College or School to discuss the changes, please reach out to Sharon Sealy.

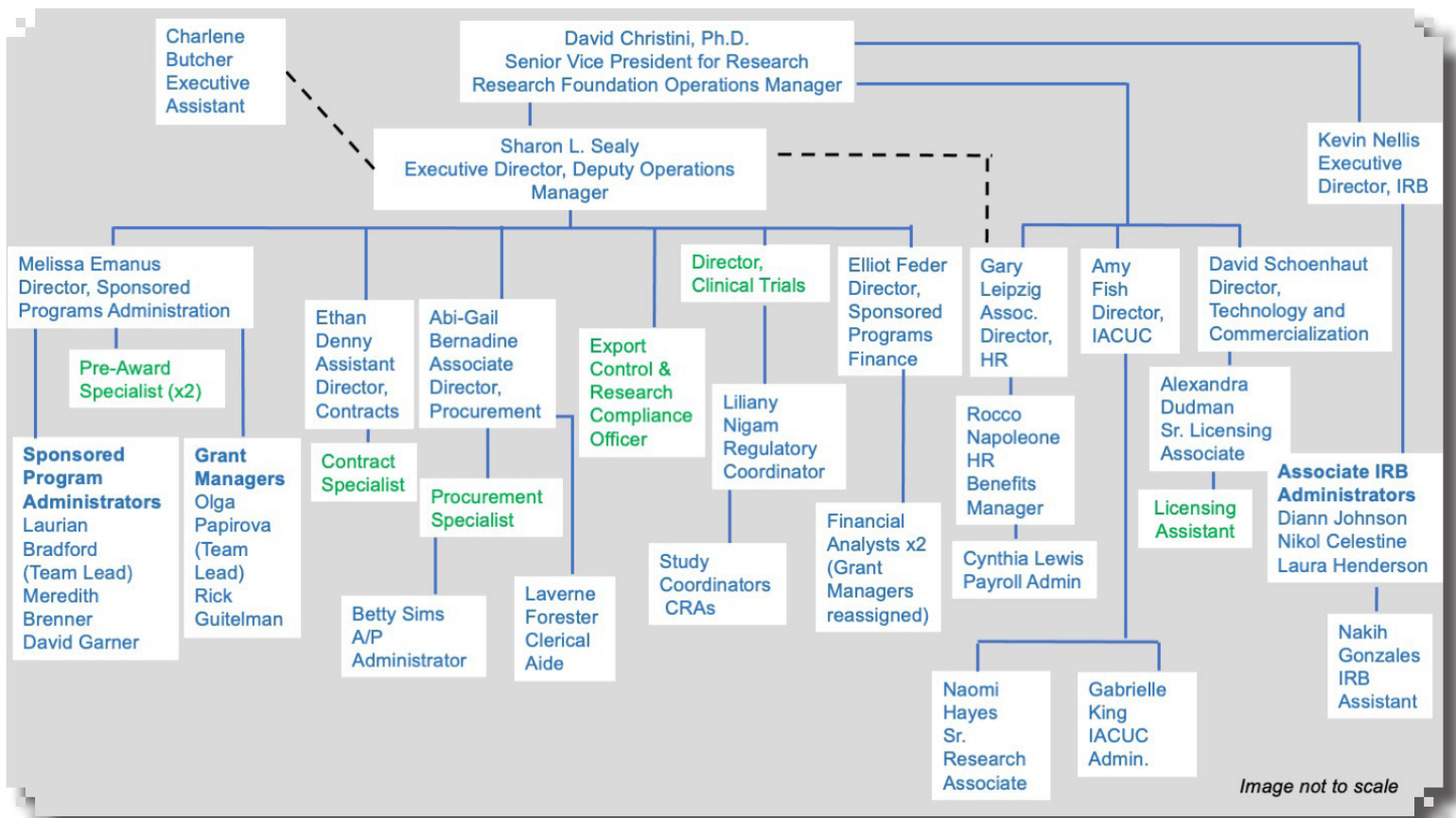


Image not to scale



Pivot ProQuest

Searching for relevant funding opportunities presents a daunting challenge; Pivot accelerates the research process by integrating funding, collaborator discovery, and publishing opportunities into one powerful tool. The Office of Research Administration is excited to announce that Pivot is now live! Please visit the [Sponsored Programs Funding Opportunities](#) page for more information and instructions for creating your profile, searching funding opportunities and creating research collaboration groups.

Ordering and Purchase Requisition Software

The ORA is researching options for purchasing an ordering and requisition software for Downstate. The software is user friendly, intuitive and will be a one stop shop for submitting a requisition, access to the purchase order, tracking deliverables, uploading invoices and approvals for payment. Stay tuned...

WCG IRB for Clinical Trials and Budget Development

Downstate has established a master agreement to use the services of the WIRB Copernicus Group (WCG) IRB as the preferred IRB for:

- ❖ Industry sponsored clinical investigations
- ❖ Federally funded non-exempt multi-site human research requiring a Single IRB (sIRB) when Downstate is the primary awardee

Downstate will make every reasonable effort to use the WCG IRB for the above studies except in situations where a sponsor requires the use of another independent IRB or when the research has oversight by the NCI Central IRB. For more information, see Step 5 D on the website: <https://research.downstate.edu/irb/electronic-submission.html>

As part of the agreement, WCG will also develop clinical trial budgets. WCG group will assist with cost analysis, budget preparation, budget negotiation and revenue collection. The ORA clinical trials regulatory coordinator will send all protocols to WCG to facilitate budget preparation and negotiation, alleviating the burden of preparing study budgets on investigators and study coordinators. Outsourcing to WCG will ensure timely budget preparation and negotiation.

❖ SOHP continues its monthly research capacity building meetings that include faculty and staff as well as colleagues from other Downstate schools and departments. The first segment of the meeting is a brief educational segment followed by brainstorming of research ideas and identifying potential inter-disciplinary research collaborations.

❖ In collaboration with COM Department of Pediatrics, SOHP faculty submitted a HRSA training grant to develop a training program for preparing clinicians to work with persons with Autism and other neurological disorders.

❖ Adie Jumbo, faculty in the Medical Informatics program was selected to participate in the TRANSPORT program. TRANSPORT (Translational Program of Health Disparities Research Training) aims to bolster health disparity research at Downstate and support researchers underrepresented in biomedical research. The TRANSPORT program is part of the \$10 million dollar endowment grant to Downstate from NIMHD.

❖ A multi-disciplinary team comprised of members from the SOHP, COM, UHB, and SPH (Allen Lewis, Adie Jumbo, Andrea Trimmingham-Aina, Lori Hoepner, Joanne Katz, Susan Fraser-McCleary, Felicia Thompson, Daurin Tribble, Brigitte Desport, Carla Boutin-Foster, and Anika Daniels-Osaze) collaborated to published a book chapter on cultural competency titled “Cultural Competency in Rehabilitation Counseling and Other Health Professions” for a textbook on Disability Studies for Human Services: An Interdisciplinary and Intersectionality Approach.



SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SOHP)

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Five MPH students authored Op-Eds on 'aging and isolation during COVID' as part of an SPH course led by Dr. Lori A. Hoepner. Jamila Taylor, Sharon Billey, Camara Perkins, Rozanne Caesar, and Korto Togba drafted and successfully placed articles in the Queens Eagle, Amsterdam News, Guyana Chronicle, and Staten Island Live, a part of an assignment in one of SPH's new and dynamic required courses, Public Health Leadership and Interprofessional Practice PUBH 520.

Health Policy and Management MPH student Giovanna Braganza is part of a team at Mt. Sinai Hospital that seeks to analyze associations between neighborhood-level socioeconomic (SES) variables and county air pollution among Covid-19 patients. She is generating a multivariable regression analysis model to analyze retrospective cohort data from hospital admissions at the Mount Sinai Health system, Elmhurst and Queens HHC hospitals between March 2020 and May 2020. Aggregate SES variables such as population density, percent foreign born, and poverty levels obtained through census-tract data and geocoded billing addresses will inform how individual-level variables such as nativity influence Covid-19 outcomes

A Downstate research team that included Max Mecklenburg (MPH 2016 and current COM student), Chanée Massiah (DrPH-C, Epidemiology), Clara Wilson (4th year MD-MPH), Sabrina Rosengarten (MPH 2018 and current COM student), and Vice Dean Michael Joseph, PhD, MPH, recently published a study in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine entitled "Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation versus endotracheal intubation in treatment of COVID-19 patients requiring ventilatory support."



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
(SPH)

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Paul Landsbergis, Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences is PI of a study funded by NIOSH (CDC), being conducted with faculty from the Yale School of Medicine, on the working conditions and health of members of worker cooperatives, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Lori A. Hoepner, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and resident SPH expert on Interprofessional Education and Practice, recently co-authored four multi-disciplinary publications with faculty from COM, SOHP, CUNY Brooklyn College, and Columbia University/Children's Respiratory Research and Environment Workgroup.

Michael Szarek, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Executive Director of the Center for Clinical and Outcomes Research, has been published in the European Heart Journal, as the lead author for the article "Lipoprotein(a) lowering by alirocumab reduces the total burden of cardiovascular events independent of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol lowering: ODYSSEY OUTCOMES trial."

Azure B. Thompson, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, is part of a collaborative multi-institutional team that was awarded a two-year grant funded by the Health Effects Institute (HEI) to study the effects of neighborhood vulnerability and air pollution on COVID-19 hospitalization outcomes. PIs: Jeanette A Stingone (Columbia University School of Public Health) and Stephanie Lovinsky-Desir (Columbia University College of Medicine).



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

2021 Virtual Research Colloquium

This year, the Annual Research Day of the School of Graduate Studies was organized virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. The presentations and discussions were recorded and posted online through VoiceThread software. Trainees, including residents and postdocs from all Downstate schools were invited to participate. Prizes range from \$250 to \$1000. In addition, one presentation will be selected for the "***Alan R. Gintzler Prize for Excellence in Research***", introduced this year.

Recorded presentations are available on the School of Graduate Studies [website](#).

Harris Huberman, MD

Division of Child Development,
Department of Pediatrics

We are currently engaged in two interlinked clinical trials examining the effect of leucovorin (folinic acid) on young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in collaboration with Dr. Edward Quadros of the Department of Cell Biology and Dr. Richard Frye of the Phoenix Children's Hospital. These trials are based on a literature implicating folate deficiency in the brain resulting from the presence of folate receptor autoantibodies (FRAA) as a significant contributing factor in ASD. One trial, funded by Autism Speaks, focuses on improving social communication specifically in children who are FRAA-positive, and includes use of functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) to examine altered brain responsiveness to social stimuli and whether leucovorin improves it. The other study, funded by the Department of Defense, focuses on improving overall language as well as social communication, and includes children who are FRAA-negative- as well as FRAA-positive. Both studies utilize a new formulation of leucovorin, composed of only the bioactive l-isomer, and in a liquid form – offering greater potency, reduced side effects and ease of administration in young children. After finally obtaining the necessary approvals from the Food & Drug Administration, we have just started enrollment – and are actively recruiting 2.5 – 5 year olds with moderate ASD who are on stable behavioral treatment regimens of ABA, and without genetic syndromes, congenital brain malformations or epilepsy.

We welcome referrals of potential subjects – please contact Study Coordinators Khadija Sikriti (718) 270-4657 or Daniel Mishan (718) 270-2272.

New members - Office of the SVPR

Marilisa (Mimi) Goetz, Program Coordinator

Mimi Goetz graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 2018 with a BA in Global Studies. She previously worked in Advertising as a Producer, but recently switched careers to Research Administration. In her role as Project Coordinator, she supports the Director of Research Programs Development in overseeing all initiatives from the SVPR's office. She is excited to be part of the Research Administration team and is looking forward to supporting the faculty in furthering their research.



Marcus Lambert, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Research Strategy and Operations

Marcus Lambert joined us on April 1st from Weill Cornell Medicine, where he served as Assistant Dean for Diversity and Student Life and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Lambert led several institutional efforts and served as contact PI for a coveted NIH/NIGMS-funded Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) R25 grant to increase the number and enhance the success of Ph.D. students from underrepresented backgrounds. Dr. Lambert will work with the Human Research Advisory Committee to develop and implement strategies to strengthen clinical trials efforts; partner with other SUNY campuses to develop SUNY-wide research networks and programs in human and laboratory research; envision and develop interdisciplinary research initiatives to support new research programs; interface with leadership of NIH, NSF, New York State, and other agencies to identify and target new funding opportunities for Downstate and its investigators; and work with leaders of Downstate Schools and Colleges on efforts to strengthen trainee research.



CONTACT US

SVPR Office:

Ayesha Joshi and Marilisa Goetz
svpr-research-office@downstate.edu

Office of Research Administration:

Sharon L. Sealy, Executive Director,
Deputy Operations Manager
sharon.sealy@downstate.edu