



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

NEW CONNECTIONS

INCREASING DIVERSITY OF RWJF PROGRAMMING

2ND ANNUAL RESEARCH AND COACHING CLINIC OCTOBER 25-26, 2008

“THE FUNCTION OF EDUCATION IS TO
TEACH ONE TO THINK INTENSIVELY AND TO
THINK CRITICALLY...INTELLIGENCE PLUS
CHARACTER—THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE
EDUCATION.” —MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

October 25, 2008



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Hello Participants,

Welcome to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *New Connections Second Annual Research and Coaching Clinic*! We are excited that you have joined us. *New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming* is a national program of RWJF and is designed to expand the diversity of perspectives that inform RWJF programming. Our goal is to introduce new researchers and scholars to the Foundation program priorities and research agenda.

The Research and Coaching Clinic is one of our annual meetings which serves as an opportunity for diverse scholars to network, strengthen skill sets, and affirm their commitment to research that impacts the communities we serve. We have brought together a unique coaching team to help you strengthen your professional toolkit. With feedback from past participants, the workshop sessions strive to build upon skills that are just as important as research methodology: writing regularly; conducting literature reviews; writing for publication; the art of translating results into stories; and negotiating for tenure and promotion. We hope that throughout the next two days, you will have the opportunity to connect with these coaches informally as well as formally either through our networking reception or luncheon. For those of you staying on next week, we encourage you to take full advantage of the American Public Health Association's sessions and events.

The New Connections program is more than a grants program. It is a life-long professional network for diverse researchers. This Research and Coaching Clinic reinforces our commitment to empowering early to mid-career researchers with the critical skills, mentoring, and networking opportunities necessary to impact change.

As many of you know, the *New Connections Round IV* call for proposals for Junior Investigators was released on October 2, 2008. For those who are interested in applying, the deadline for the brief proposal is November 13, 2008; our applicant webinar and FAQ's are posted on our website. We are excited about engaging you in helping us get the word out to your various networks and contacts. The call for proposals for the *Healthy Eating Research-New Connections* joint solicitation will be released in December 2008; the *New Connections Round IV* call for proposals for Senior Consultants will be released in the spring of 2009. Over the next two days you will also hear about other events that we are planning, including our *Third Annual Symposium at AcademyHealth* on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, 2008 in Chicago.

For more information about the RWJF New Connections program, training events, and funding opportunities, please visit www.rwjf-newconnections.org . If you have any questions regarding the proposal process or the program, please email program staff at rwjf-newconnections@rwjf.org .

Please join me in welcoming Hallene Eldosougi, our new Project Director! Hallene comes to us with experience as a small business owner and brings with her a passion for equity in healthcare and a strong commitment to the communities we serve.

It is our pleasure to host the *New Connections Second Annual Research and Coaching Clinic*. We look forward to working with you over the next two days and to strengthening a professional community of diverse researchers who are making a difference in our lifetime.

To your health

Debra Joy Pérez, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.A.

RWJF Senior Program Officer

www.rwjf-newconnections.org

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About RWJF Back

9:00-10:00 am	Coffee and Registration	Foyer—Randle D/E
10:00-10:05 am	Welcome	Randle D/E
10:05-11:30	Enacting the Scholar Role	Randle D/E
	<p>Sonja Foss, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> Department of Communication, University of Colorado Denver</p> <p>William Waters, Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor</i> Department of English, University of Houston—Downtown</p> <p>This workshop focuses on writing and consists of four sessions. This session explains what it means to be a scholar and the incomplete scholar roles that sometimes get in the way, including those of the housekeeper, the model employee, the patient, and the proxy critic. Focus is on becoming a complete scholar by writing regularly.</p>	
11:35-12:55 pm	Networking Lunch	Randle B
1:00-2:30 pm	Understanding the Publishing Process	Randle D/E
	<p>Sonja Foss, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> Department of Communication, University of Colorado Denver</p> <p>William Waters, Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor</i> Department of English, University of Houston—Downtown</p> <p>This session focuses on strategies for getting published, including developing a research program, coming up with ideas, selecting an appropriate journal, writing for the journal, revising a dissertation chapter or conference paper for publication, submitting the article, and responding to reviews and resubmitting.</p>	
2:30-2:45 pm	Break	
2:45-3:45 pm	Strengthening your Literature Review	Randle D/E
	<p>Sonja Foss, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> Department of Communication, University of Colorado Denver</p> <p>William Waters, Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor</i> Department of English, University of Houston—Downtown</p> <p>This session explains a method for process and writing your literature efficiently and in a way that produces original and unique results. Topics covered include the purpose of the literature review, identifying the literature to review, coding the literature, creating a conceptual schema, and writing up the literature review. The final session of the writing workshop will be held tomorrow.</p>	
3:45-4:00 pm	Break	
4:00-6:00 pm	The Broader Narrative: Lifework, Voice, and the “Fierce Urgency of Now”	Randle D/E
	<p>Kathleen Roe, Ph.D. <i>Professor of Health Education and Chair</i> Heath Science Department, San Jose State University</p> <p>This next workshop is about communicating research. A researcher’s life is animated by discovery, filled with insight, and often overwhelmed by results and the pressure to get them into the literature. Our doctoral programs train us well for standard research writing, but that’s only the beginning of what researchers can do with what they know. Most often, our research is a product of a deeper commitment and a driving passion for addressing issues of our time and place. This interactive session will explore our own broader narratives (what is our research really about), ways and venues for blending types of expression while maintaining a successful research career, and the importance of never forgetting what Dr. King referred to as “the fierce urgency of now.”</p>	
6:00-8:00 pm	New Connections Reception and Speed Networking Event	Randle B

8:00–9:00 am	New Connections grantees and alumni (closed meeting)	Randle B
9:00–10:00 am	Breakfast and registration for Day 2	Randle B
10:00–12:00 pm	<p>Encore with Sonja Foss and William Waters</p> <p>Sonja Foss, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> Department of Communication, University of Colorado Denver</p> <p>William Waters, Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor</i> Department of English, University of Houston—Downtown</p> <p>In this fourth and final writing session you will have a chance to ask your remaining burning questions about writing effectively.</p>	Randle D/E
12:00–1:30 pm	Networking Lunch with Mentors	Randle B
1:30–3:30 pm	<p>Navigating your way to tenure: Guidelines to understanding promotion in academia</p> <p>Earle Chambers, Ph.D. (moderator) <i>Assistant Professor</i> Department of Family and Social Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine</p> <p>Kerry Ann Rockquomore, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor</i> Department of African American Studies & Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago Author: <i>The Black Academic's Guide to Winning Tenure Without Losing your Soul</i></p> <p>Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D. <i>President</i> Saint Joseph College</p> <p>Gail Wyatt, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> Dept. of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA <i>Director</i> UCLA Sexual Health Program <i>Director</i> Center for Culture, Trauma and Mental Health Disparities <i>Associate Director</i> UCLA AIDS Institute</p> <p>This workshop will highlight the important steps to positioning yourself for promotion within your academic institution. The panel includes professionals at different career stages designed to give various perspectives on building a successful academic career. Specific attention will be placed on determining which questions to ask yourself and the head of your academic department regarding your career trajectory, developing an individual academic plan, prioritizing your institutional responsibilities, and building your mentorship network. Workshop attendees will be able to use the skills learned during this workshop to better position their career for success in academia.</p>	Randle D/E
3:30–3:45 pm	Closing Remarks	Randle D/E

NEW CONNECTIONS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

www.rwjf-newconnections.org

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)'s New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming is designed to expand the diversity of perspectives that inform RWJF programming and introduce new researchers and scholars to the Foundation. Launched in 2005, New Connections is more than a grant opportunity. It is a life-long professional network for diverse researchers. New Connections is committed to empowering early to mid-career researchers with the critical skills, mentoring, and opportunities necessary to impact change.

The New Connections program seeks scholars who have historically been underrepresented in research activities supported by RWJF. This includes people from ethnic or racial minority groups, first-generation college graduates and people from low-income communities. New Connections provides funding for up to 16 awards of up to \$75,000 over two-years to *Senior Consultants* and *Junior Investigators*. Funding may include methodological training, consultation, mentoring and/or publication support. One of the unique characteristics of the New Connections program is that it also supports the broader network of diverse investigators interested in the Foundation's priorities. This support is provided through sponsorship of our annual New Connections Symposium and Research and Coaching Clinic.

The New Connections program issues a call for proposals each year. The program supports research activities and consultant projects that address specific questions and needs identified by RWJF programming teams. The current call for proposals for Junior Investigators was released October 2, 2008; this fourth round considers questions from six teams:

- Childhood Obesity
- Coverage
- Human Capital
- Public Health
- Quality/Equality
- Vulnerable Populations

The call for proposals for Senior Consultants will be released in Spring 2009. Additional obesity-related calls for proposals will be offered through the Healthy Eating Research: An RWJF New Connections Solicitation in Winter 2008 and through the Active Living Research: An RWJF New Connections Solicitation in Summer 2009.

Over the next few months, please check our website for more information about upcoming events. Our annual Symposium will be held June 27th and 28th, 2009 at the AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal process or the program, please direct them to:

New Connections:
Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming

Hallene Eldosougi
Project Director
National Urban Fellow
Phone: (609) 627-5770
Email: rwjf-newconnections@rwjf.org

For updated information about our training events, funding opportunities, and program please visit www.rwjf-newconnections.org

NEW CONNECTIONS: INCREASING DIVERSITY OF RWJF PROGRAMMING

Grantee Research Project Summaries 2008-2009 Awards

Shawn Bediako, Ph.D., M.A., M.S.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Employment Status, Health Care Utilization, and Mental Health Outcomes among Young Adult Men with Sickle Cell Disease*

Monique Clinton-Sherrod, Ph.D.

Research Triangle Institute

Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *A Longitudinal Examination of the Impact of Community-level Social Factors on Domestic Violence among Couples with a Male Partner in Alcohol Treatment*

Lisa Colarossi, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.A.

Planned Parenthood of New York City

Senior Consultant, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *A Mixed-Method Study of Partner Violence Screening Effectiveness and Associated Social and Health Factors*

Dharma Cortes, Ph.D., M.A.

Cambridge Health Alliance/ Harvard Medical School

Senior Consultant, Coverage

Project Title: *"No one asked me": An Emic Perspective on Health Insurance Affordability*

Tara Earl, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Boston College

Junior Investigator, Quality/Equality

Project Title: *A Different Point of View: Multi-Racial/Ethnic Patient-Centered Quality of Mental Health Care*

Amy Ferketich, Ph.D., M.A., M.A.S.

The Ohio State University Research Foundation

Senior Consultant, Public Health

Project Title: *Examining the Reach of Clean Indoor Air Policies in Appalachia*

Marla McDaniel, Ph.D.

The Urban Institute

Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Toward Understanding Racial Disparities in Childhood Asthma: Do Self-Management Behaviors Differ by Race?*

Lorraine McKelvey, Ph.D., M.A.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Children's Exposure to Violence at Home and in the Community: Pathways to Outcomes at Age 18*

Denese Neu, Ph.D., M.S.

HHS Planning and Consulting, Inc.

Senior Consultant, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Examining How Community Development Organizations Incorporate Mental Health Programming for Improved Target Population Outcomes*

Dr. Raphael Travis, Dr.P.H., M.S.W.

Texas State University - San Marcos

Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Positive Youth Development and Reentry Project*

Karen Winters, Ph.D., M.S.N.

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Junior Investigator, Coverage

Project Title: *Examining Racial Variation in Persistently and Episodically high out-of-pocket Health Care Expenses and Financial Burden Associated with Chronic Illness*

Pamela Xaverius, Ph.D.

St. Louis University

Junior Investigator, Public Health

Project Title: *Immigrant and Racial Disparities in Reproductive Health.*

NEW CONNECTIONS: INCREASING DIVERSITY OF RWJF PROGRAMMING

Grantee Research Project Summaries 2007-2008 Awards

Priscilla A. Barnes, M.P.H., C.H.E.S

Western Michigan University
Senior Consultant, Public Health

Project Title: *Examination of Local Health Department Partnerships with Nongovernmental Agencies in Improving Public Health Outcomes*

Annjeanette Elise Belcourt-Dittloff, Ph.D.

University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Exposure to Violence, Depression, Post Traumatic Stress, Substance Abuse and Healthcare Utilization: The impact of cultural factors within two American Indian communities.*

Thema S. Bryant-Davis, Ph.D.

Pepperdine University
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *The influence of Social Factors on African American Women's Experiences of Domestic Violence*

Marah A. Curtis, Ph.D.

Boston University
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *The Effect of Incarceration on Fathers' Health*

Robert L. Dunigan, Ph.D.

Brandeis University
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Determinants of Treatment Engagement and Time to Event of Recidivism for Young African-American and Latino Males*

Dawnovise N. Fowler, Ph.D., A.M.

University of Texas at Austin
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Examining Substance Abuse and Related Psychosocial Factors Among Women Intimate Partner Abuse Survivors*

Lisa C. Gary, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health
Investigator, Quality/Equality

Project Title: *Measuring Quality: Understanding the Patient Satisfaction Profiles of Vulnerable Populations*

Melody S. Goodman, Ph.D.

Stony Brook University Medical Center - Graduate Program in Public Health
Junior Investigator, Public Health

Project Title: *Stony Brook University Medical Center - Graduate Program in Public Health Utilizing National Data to Obtain Local Health Disparity Estimates*

Wrenetha A. Julion, D.N.Sc., M.P.H.

Rush University Medical Center
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Promoting Paternal Involvement in African-American Non-resident Fathers Via Faith-Based Parent Training*

Tamara G.J. Leech, Ph.D.

Butler University
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Public Housing and Adolescent Health Risk Behaviors*

Arlesia L. Mathis, Ph.D.

University of Michigan-Flint
Junior Investigator, Public Health

Project Title: *The Impact of Privatization of Primary Care Services In Florida Health Departments on Racial and Ethnic Populations*

Diana R. Romero, Ph.D.

Hunter College, City University of New York
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Health, Hardship, and Race/Ethnicity in Vulnerable Families: A Multifactorial Examination of the Fragile Families Data-set*

Sunny H. Shin, Ph.D.

Boston University School of Social Work
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Explaining Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health Services Use among Children involved with Foster Care*

Shakira Franco Suglia, Ph.D.

Harvard University School of Public Health
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Impact of Violence Exposure on Children's Health*

Daphne C. Watkins, Ph.D.

University of Michigan
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *The Influence of Psychosocial Factors on the Mental Health of Black Men in America*

Eunice Wong, Ph.D.

RAND
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations

Project Title: *Mental Health Outcomes Among New U.S. Immigrant Children*

NEW CONNECTIONS: INCREASING DIVERSITY OF RWJF PROGRAMMING

Grantee Research Project Summaries 2006-2007 Awards

Bettina M. Beech, Dr. P.H., M.P.H.

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Senior Consultant, Childhood Obesity

Project Title: *An Examination of Policies to Support Healthy Eating Among Rural High School Students in the Delta*

Rhonda BeLue, Ph.D.

The Pennsylvania State University
Junior Investigator, Quality/Equality Team

Project Title: *Investigating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Quality and Location of Care*

Earle C. Chambers, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Yeshiva University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Junior Investigator, Obesity Team

Project Title: *Household instability and the 'obesogenic' environment.*

Florence J. Dallo, Ph.D., M.P.H.

The University of Texas School of Public Health
Junior Investigator, Quality/Equality Team

Project Title: *Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Quality of Care of Immigrants and non-Immigrants in the United States*

Cristiane S. Duarte, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Columbia University Medical Center
Junior Investigator, Obesity Team

Project Title: *Built Environment and Overweight in Early Childhood: Understanding Disparities and Key Mechanisms*

James Jennings, Ph.D.

Tufts University
Senior Consultant, Human Capital Team

Project Title: *Impact of Changing Demography on Racial and Ethnic Relations in Community Health Centers in Low-Income Neighborhoods*

Marilyn Johnson-Kozlow, Ph.D.

San Diego State University
Junior Investigator, Quality/Equality Team

Project Title: *Acculturation and Health Disparities among Latinos*

Nina S. Parikh, Ph.D.

Hunter College, City University of New York
Junior Investigator, Coverage Team

Project Title: *Access to and Utilization of Health Care among New Immigrants*

Ninfa Peña-Purcell, Ph.D.

Texas A&M University
Junior Investigator, Pioneer Team

Project Title: *Hispanics' Use of Health Information on the Internet: Implications for Healthcare Professionals*

Deinya M. Phenix

New York University
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations Team

Project Title: *Detention, Education, and Community-Based Services among Former New York City Jail Inmates*

Juliette K. Roddy, Ph.D.

University of Michigan—Dearborn
Junior Investigator, Vulnerable Populations Team

Project Title: *Access and Consumption of Addiction Treatment Service in Primary and Specialty Care Settings*

Ronica Rooks, Ph.D.

University of Colorado at Denver
Junior Investigator, Quality/Equality Team

Project Title: *Explaining Racial Disparities in Quality of Care and Health Care Utilization among Black and White Adults: the Chronic Illness and Caregiving Survey*

HEALTHY EATING RESEARCH-NEW CONNECTIONS SOLICITATION 2007-2008 AWARDS

Grantee Research Project Summaries

Anna Adachi-Mejia, Ph.D.

Dartmouth College
Junior Investigator, Healthy Eating Research

Project Title: *The Impact of School Vending Machine Policies on Adolescent Beverage Consumption in Rural High Schools*

Naa Oye Kwate, Ph.D.

Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University
Junior Investigator, Healthy Eating Research

Project Title: *Consumption in Rural High Schools Inequality in New York City's Food Environment: Determinants of Fast Food Density, Spatial Distribution, and Store Operation*

RWJF NEW CONNECTIONS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Junior Investigators Round IV

Applications due November 15, 2008

Applicant web conference, CFP, and FAQ's posted online. www.rwjf-newconnections.org

Childhood Obesity

The Childhood Obesity team is studying how changes in local policies and environments affect physical activity and food consumption in children. The team is interested in the following research that uses the California Health Interview Survey from 2003, 2005 and 2007:

- Analysis of changes related to the implementation of The California Endowment's Healthy Eating Active Communities (HEAC) program.
- Analysis of changes before and after the implementation of Kaiser Permanente's Healthy Eating Active Living Community Health Initiatives.
- Other California policy changes affecting physical activity and food consumption among children.

Coverage

The Coverage team seeks to reduce the number of uninsured Americans. The causes of health disparities among different underserved populations are complex, and studies have shown that health insurance coverage is one of several factors that can explain differences between these groups. In recent years, many states have implemented policies to expand health insurance coverage. The Coverage team is interested in learning more about the extent to which these coverage expansions can narrow gaps in health and health care disparities by examining:

- The impact that current state health expansions and reforms have on coverage and access to health care for different populations;
- Successful strategies to address the needs of underserved populations in state health care reform and whether successful reforms lead to observable changes in the health of those populations; and
- How to improve the take-up rates of newly expanded health insurance programs.

Human Capital

The Human Capital portfolio seeks to ensure that the nation's health care workforce is adequately staffed and skilled by attracting, developing and retaining a capable and diverse health care workforce to improve the health and health care of all Americans. Staff are interested in exploring:

- the perceived financial disincentive for nurses to pursue careers as faculty in nursing schools; and
- programs that enhance the ability of the frontline workforce to climb career ladders and increase the diversity of the health and health care workforce.

Public Health

The Public Health team seeks to strengthen the U.S. public health system to make it better prepared to promote the health of all Americans. The team has identified several priority research areas:

- How policy-makers use evidence to make decisions about public health system structure, resource allocation and oversight and management.
- The implications of variation in the practice of public health on system performance and health outcomes and how variations in quality impact health care disparities.
- Identifying whether public health services and systems research, current state laws or funding requirements can be used to address racial/ethnic/socioeconomic status disparities in population health.

Quality/Equality

The Quality/Equality team aims to improve the quality of the health care system and believes measuring patients' experience is an important quality measure. Staff want to understand the differences in patient assessments of care that have been found between patients of different health statuses, education level and genders. To that end, the team is interested in:

- Identifying the patient characteristics that correlate with patients' evaluations of the quality of care they receive;
- Analyzing how much measurement error is seen between "true" and "observed" differences; and
- Identifying underlying cultural issues that may cause different subpopulations to rate the quality of care they receive in a way that varies from what may be considered an objective assessment.

Vulnerable Populations

The Vulnerable Populations portfolio is committed to improving health outcomes by supporting projects that address social factors, such as housing, employment, poverty, immigration status and involvement with certain systems, like schools, jails or foster care. Our programs create sensible solutions that allow people to overcome the social barriers that prevent better health. Particular areas of include:

- Approaches and interventions affecting interpersonal violence within the workplace, among adolescents in school, and among different immigrant groups;
- Effective strategies for mental health services within low-income families and children; and
- Elements of programs successful in promoting health among young African-American and Latino males.

Debra Pérez Joy, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.A.



Debra Pérez Joy, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.A., is a senior program officer in Research and Evaluation where she is responsible for the Foundation's work on public health and managing two internal fellows program. As the former program officer for the Disparities Team, she was responsible for developing major initiatives designed to find interventions that work to reduce racial/ethnic disparities and establish learning network of providers implementing strategies to serve the limited English proficient patient populations. In addition, she is also the senior program officer responsible for managing the National Urban Fellows grant at RWJF. As national program director for New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming, Dr Pérez works with historically under-represented investigators and identifies opportunities to link this new talent to the Foundation's work across teams and research areas.

Since joining the Foundation in October 2004, Perez has also been responsible for program development in research and evaluation in the areas of disparities, Latino and minority health and healthcare issues and public health. Much of her work focuses on building the field of public health services systems research which supports building the evidence of how the organization, financing, performance and impact of the public health system impacts the performance of governmental and non-governmental agencies. She also sits on the Foundation's diversity committee.

Pérez graduated from Douglass College with a B.A. in communication. She received an M.A. in social science and women's studies from the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, in 1993. Pérez received the National Urban and Rural Fellows award leading to her M.P.A. from Baruch College, City University of New York where she graduated with honors. In 1998 she became deputy director for New Jersey Health Initiatives, a program office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation thus beginning her passion for philanthropy. In 2000, she entered an interfaculty doctoral program at Harvard University where in 2005 she received her Ph.D. in health policy. While at Harvard, Dr. Pérez chaired the first and second university-wide symposium on racial and ethnic disparities in health/health care. She was awarded a five-year fellowship in health policy and research from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Her current research focuses on racial/ethnic disparities in health and health care. She has a particular focus on socio-cultural differences, factors associated with acculturation and how these factors impact immigrant and non-immigrants. She has also conducted research on the prevalence of discrimination among Latinos and differences in Latino health policy preferences.

Hallene Williams Eldosougi



Hallene W. Eldosougi is a National Urban Fellow (NUF) working at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Prior to NUF, Ms. Eldosougi owned and operated E-Z Ride Services Inc., a specialty transportation company meeting the mobility needs of disabled residents of Indianapolis, Indiana. The service focuses on transportation to and from employment opportunities and paratransit services. Most recently she negotiated an additional contract with the City of Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation to provide an airport and West 86th Street demand-ride shuttle service.

She collaborated in establishing a dialysis center in Khartoum, Sudan, Africa. She accomplished her mission of providing a center that adhered to professional standards of cleanliness and service which assists over 100 treatments a week. This accomplishment is a philanthropic effort to change the lives of those suffering with kidney failure. For the past two years, she has served as Vice-President of the Indiana Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Organization (COMTO). This national organization promotes and fosters the training and advancement of minorities in the transportation industry. As Indiana Vice-President of COMTO, she led her the local chapter to host the 2008 National Meeting and Training Conference in Indianapolis. She graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where she received a Bachelor of Science. As Project Director of the New Connections Program, Hallene is responsible for managing and overseeing all aspects of the implementation, grant solicitation, review cycle, outreach, and training for New Connections applicants, grantees, and alumni. She and her husband Ayman are the proud parents of three children, ten year-old Tarig, seven year-old Nia-Hyatt and four year-old Taha.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Sonja K. Foss, Ph.D.



Sonja K. Foss is a professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado Denver. Her research and teaching interests are in contemporary rhetorical theory and criticism, feminist perspectives on communication, the incorporation

of marginalized voices into rhetorical theory, and visual rhetoric. She is the author or coauthor of the books *Destination Dissertation: A Traveler's Guide to a Done Dissertation*, *Rhetorical Criticism*, *Contemporary Perspectives on Rhetoric*, *Inviting Transformation*, *Feminist Rhetorical Theories*, and *Women Speak*. Her essays in communication journals have dealt with topics such as invitational rhetoric, agency in the film *Run Lola Run*, visual argumentation, and body art. Dr. Foss earned her Ph.D. in communication studies from Northwestern University and previously taught at Ohio State University, the University of Oregon, the University of Denver, Virginia Tech, and Norfolk State University.

William Waters, Ph.D.



William Waters is an assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Houston—Downtown. His research and teaching interests are in writing theory and practice, the history of the English language,

linguistics, and modern grammar. He is the coauthor of *Destination Dissertation: A Traveler's Guide to a Done Dissertation* and was the managing editor of *La Puerta: A Doorway into the Academy*. He also has published several poems in national journals. Dr. Waters earned his Ph.D. in language and linguistics from the University of New Mexico and previously taught at the University of Maine; University College in Galway, Ireland; and Cheongbuk National University in Korea.

Kathleen M. Roe, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Kathleen Roe is a Professor of Health Education and Chair of the Health Science Department at San Jose State University. She teaches courses in community organizing, multicultural communication, leadership, writing, and community health promotion. She was the Director of the MPH program

from 1989 – 2001, and is now the Director of the Undergraduate Program in addition to being the Department Chair.

Dr. Roe has been involved in community health promotion efforts for over 25 years. She has worked as a peer educator and peer education program director, epidemiology analyst, community organizer, and health educator. As Founder and Director of the Community Health Studies Group, she and her brother Kevin Roe have been the evaluators of many important community health efforts in Northern California. Currently, she is working with The Health Trust as an evaluator of several of the projects they support, including their oral health initiative, the promoters program, and the Diabetes Coalition of Santa Clara County.

Dr. Roe has long been active in local, regional, and national professional organizations. In addition to her service as the President of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) from 1999-2000, Dr. Roe has served on the Professionwide Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education, and currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Transition Task Force, the group planning the transition to a unified system of accreditation for the health education profession. Since 2006, she has taught leadership courses and consulted with the new public health program at the University of Reykjavik in Iceland.

Dr. Roe's commitment to students, belief in the transformative power of a university experience, and her love of community-based health education are well known. She was named the 2001-2002 Outstanding Professor of San Jose State University – an honor she considers the highest of her career.

Earle Chambers, Ph.D.



Dr. Earle Chambers completed his B.S. degree in Biology at Duke University in 1996 and his Masters of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health in 1999. His doctoral work was conducted at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health. During his doctoral training, Dr. Chambers received a pre-doctoral National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Research Service Award to conduct

his dissertation research examining the relationship of birth weight and psychosocial stress with insulin resistance in African Caribbean adolescents. Dr. Chambers completed his Ph.D. in epidemiology in 2003 after which he joined the research team at the New York Obesity Research Center (NYORC) for his post-doctoral training where he worked on studies of body composition assessment in racial/ethnic minority populations. During his fellowship, Dr. Chambers was the recipient of a New Connections award through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Through this award, Dr. Chambers has been able to develop an area of research that examines the effect of the social and physical environments on obesity risk. His current work examines the effect of housing on obesity risk in urban populations. He is currently an assistant professor of Family and Social Medicine and of Epidemiology and Population Health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York.

Kerry Ann Rockquemore, Ph.D.



Kerry Ann Rockquemore is Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her scholarship focuses on racial identity development among mixed-race children, interracial family dynamics, and the politics of racial categorization. She is the author of *Beyond Black: Biracial Identity in America* (2001) and *Raising Biracial Children* (2005) as well as numerous articles and

book chapters on mixed-race children and adolescents. In addition to her research, Dr. Rockquemore provides mentoring workshops for faculty of color at colleges across the U.S. based on her new book *The Black Academic's Guide to Winning Tenure Without Losing Your Soul* (2008) and facilitates the popular online discussion forums at www.BlackAcademic.com.

Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D.



Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D., was appointed as the eighth President of Saint Joseph College in January, 2008. She came to Saint Joseph College from the position of Provost and Executive Vice President for Roosevelt University in Chicago. Previously she served in several leadership roles at the City University of New York's Graduate Center including Interim Provost and Senior

Vice President, Associate Provost and Dean for Academic Affairs as well as Professor of Psychology. She also was formerly the Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Director of the Office for Social and Ethical Responsibility at the American Psychological Association. Immediately before coming to Roosevelt University, she served in several roles at the University of Michigan (UM), including Research Scientist at the UM Institute for Research on Women and Gender as well as Director of the Women's Studies Program and Professor of Education and Psychology.

Dr. Reid is a developmental psychologist who, throughout her career, has worked with faculty and administrative colleagues alike to enhance academic quality and promote diversity. At Roosevelt University she worked with faculty governance groups to incorporate best practices in hiring, promotion, and tenure decisions, and created an incentive program to address flagging summer-session enrollments. She encouraged participation in the burgeoning online program and the inclusion of service learning in the curriculum. Her efforts also promoted partnerships with community colleges, service organizations and public schools. She has been an advocate of global education working to establish international connections with universities in China, India and Russia.

Gail E. Wyatt, Ph.D.



Dr. Wyatt a Clinical Psychologist, Sex Therapist and Professor at UCLA, was an NIMH Research Scientist Career Development Awardee for 17 years. Her research examines the consensual and abusive sexual relationships of women and men, the effects of these experiences on their psychological well-being and the cultural context of risks for STDs and HIV. She has conducted national and international research funded by the

NIMH, NIDA, State and private funders since 1980. The recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Wyatt has numerous publications in journals and book chapters, and has co-edited or written 5 books. Dr. Wyatt is the Associate Director of the UCLA AIDS Institute and the Director of the NIMH funded, UCLA Center for Culture, Trauma and Mental Health Disparities. She coordinates a core of behavioral scientists that consult with other researchers to recruit underserved populations, conduct research that effectively incorporates socio-cultural factors in HIV/AIDS research, and identifies the etiology of health disparities.



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