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Save The Date:
PRIDE will hold its **2013 Annual Meeting** for Cohort 2 Mentees/Mentors in Bethesda, MD **May 8-10, 2013**



Spotlight on Success — Dr. Natasha Davis Williams Diversity in Cardiovascular-Related Research Cohort 1

Natasha Davis Williams, Ed.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness at City University of New York. She is also a Research Consultant at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn Health Disparities Center. She earned both her Doctorate Degree and MPH from Columbia University. She spent the past four years teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Public Health as an Assistant Professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Williams is the recipient of several fellowships and awards including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. She was an NIMH pre-doctoral recipient and investigated the measurement of prejudice and discrimination at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She is currently exploring the relationship between the social determinants of sleep and cardiometabolic disease among blacks. She has been involved in several community-based participatory research (CBPR) efforts aimed at reducing the social and physical determinants of chronic disease. Dr. Williams' overall research and career goal is to develop effective intervention strategies to address health disparities and achieve health equity.

Most recently, Dr. Williams was invited to be a symposium participant at the 2013 American Psychological Association (APA) Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. This symposium on "Mentoring of Early Career Minorities in Health Research" was organized by another PRIDE trainee, Dr. John Ruiz, who is featured later in this Newsletter issue. The symposium will host four speakers, including an NIH representative, two senior faculty (mentors) and one junior faculty (mentee). First, Dr. Susan Czajkowski from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) will discuss national efforts to increase diversity in the academic research workforce. Among others, she will feature the Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE). Second, Dr. John P. Elder (Director of PRIDE, San Diego), will discuss mentoring from the perspective of a Program Director including training models, program aims, Mentor qualities, and measuring success. The third participant, Dr. Greg Talavera (Co-Director of PRIDE, San Diego), will discuss other mentoring issues such as matching Mentors to Mentees, skill development, early career guidance, and cultural considerations. Dr. Williams was invited as the final participant and will discuss her experiences as a Mentee, including the challenges and rewards of early career mentorship in programs such as PRIDE.

We congratulate both Dr. Ruiz and Dr. Williams for their national-level participation on the important topics of mentoring and diversity at the early career level.

Remembering Pablo Mora, Ph.D., M.S.

Dr. Pablo A. Mora died unexpectedly in October 2012 at the age of 41. He was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington and a Mentee in the San Diego PRIDE Summer Institute.

A Scholar of the Programs to Increase Diversity (PRIDE) Program for Mentoring Researchers in Latino Health Disparities, Dr. Mora's research examined the relationship between commonsense illness representations and health. He had been investigating how beliefs about illness and treatment influenced chronic illness management. He was also working towards establishing a research program that

addressed whether culturally-determined differences in illness and treatment representations were responsible for poor chronic illness management and poor outcomes in Latino populations.

Dr. Mora was very well respected by his colleagues and fellow PRIDE Mentees.

In the words of fellow 2012 Mentee Dr. Lizzy Pulgaron, Pablo was "incredibly intelligent and admired for his knowledge and love for the field of psychology."

Dr. Pablo Mora was a bright star and will be truly missed!



**Dr. Pablo A. Mora
1971—2012**



Behavioral and Sleep Medicine

The PRIDE Program in Behavioral and Sleep Medicine is very proud to highlight Cohort 2 Mentee **Dr. Lisa Lewis** for her achievement of receiving her first R01.

Dr. Lewis is an Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania. Using mostly community-based research methods, Dr. Lewis studies determinants of medication adherence in Blacks living with high blood pressure with an emphasis on psychosocial factors such as self-efficacy, social support, depression, spirituality, and perceived discrimination. She also has expertise in the development and testing of community-based interventions targeted at improving the behavioral management of hypertension in settings such as faith-based organizations.

Dr. Lewis is on the editorial board for the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing and Nursing Research, serves as grant reviewer for the American Heart Association National Peer Review Committee on Behavioral and Clinical Science, and is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). As mentioned previously, she is the Principal Investigator of a newly funded NIH R01 (1R01NR013491-01A) longitudinal study of adherence to medication in hypertensive Black men. We are very proud of her latest accomplishment!

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Lewis!



Lisa M. Lewis, Ph.D., B.S.N.



Cardiovascular-Related Research



CVD PRIDE Mid-Year Meeting

[Standing, L-R] Ayotunde Dokun, Raquel Villegas, Kellee White, Ellie Daniels, Clifton Addison, Denee Mwendwa, Leah Alexander, Judith Mitchell, Girardin Jean-Louis (BSM Director), and Freddy Zizi

[Seated] Nakela Cook (NHLBI Program Officer), Mohamed Boutjdir (CVD Director), and Abida Solomon

Congratulations to CVD SUNY Scholars!

The **PRIDE CVD** had its **Mid-Year Meeting at the annual American Heart Association Conference** held in Los Angeles, CA this past November 2012. On Saturday, November 3, 2012 PRIDE CVD Scholars attended the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) 25th Annual Dr. Walter M. Booker, Sr. Memorial Symposium on Cardiovascular Translational Research and Clinical Care: State of the Art 2012 and Beyond. Topics covering Cardiovascular Health Disparities included but were not limited to “*The Impact of Healthcare Reforms on Eliminating Healthcare Disparities*,” “*Sudden Cardiac Death and Multiethnic Population*,” “*Trends in Black-White Life Expectancy Gap*,” and “*Race and Ethnicity and NIH Research Awards*.”

On Sunday the Scholars and Faculty gathered for the formal progress report presentations. Scholars discussed updates since the Summer Institute about research activities including achievements and challenges.

Among the accomplishments: one Scholar submitted an R01 grant; two other Scholars were notified of awards on an U54 and P20 as co-PIs. One Scholar is in the process of re-submitting his K-award after the feedback received from the Faculty. One Scholar submitted a RWJ grant and three others had manuscripts accepted for publications. Dr. Nakela Cook (NHLBI), Dr. Jeff Borer (Chairman of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center), Dr. Judith Mitchell, Dr. Girardin Jean-Louis, Dr. Mohamed Boutjdir, Freddy Zizi and Kennon Weatherhead were present. Feedback from the Faculty was very well received and appreciated by the Scholars, especially from Dr. Cook who not only provided scientific constructive comments but also insights about NIH grantsmanship.

Overall, the Mid-Year PRIDE CVD Meeting was a big success!

Cardiovascular Genetic Epidemiology



**Congratulations to
Dr. Marshaleen Henriques-Forsythe
and
Dr. Carlos Gallego!**



Carlos J. Gallego, M.D.



Marshaleen Henriques-Forsythe, M.D.



Cohort 2 Mid-Year Meeting —

[L-R, Standing] D.C. Rao (Director), Susan Racette, Linda Schreier, Ingrid Borecki, Uriyoan Colon-Ramos, Omar De la Cruz Cabrera, Julie DeLoia, Vivian Kawai, Hirut Gebrekristos, Lisa de las Fuentes, Brian Gage

[Seated] Kamilah Ali, Robert Mayberry, Robert Elston, Phil Miller, Karen Dodson, Victor Davila-Roman

Washington University in St Louis is pleased to announce that **Carlos Gallego, M.D.**, received a K12 Award and **Marshaleen Henriques-Forsythe, M.D.**, received a KL2 Award after attending their first Summer Institute Program for PRIDE Cohort 2. However, due to technicalities with the xTrain system, they are only allowed to participate in one training program at a time and therefore had to withdraw from PRIDE in order to pursue their K awards.

We will continue to follow the progress of these two Alumni and wish them both the best in their career path.

The PRIDE-GE Mentees participated in a Mock Study Section at their **Mid-Year Meeting** held January 10-11, 2013. They submitted their grant proposals prior to arrival and their Mentors and fellow colleagues acted as reviewers for their grants.

All proposals were discussed and scored. Time was also allotted for discussions for improvements and changes to their grant proposal along with individual Mentee/Mentor meetings. This visit provided a wonderful opportunity for networking among Mentees and Mentors, including Mentors from their home institutions.

Comparative Effectiveness Research



**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER**

Congratulations to CER Columbia Scholars!

Since returning to their respective institutions and gaining knowledge in Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), our Cohort 2 Scholars have been busy. Here are updates from some of them:

Vaughn Whittaker, M.D.: Dr. Whittaker is looking at investigating the role of the patient navigator system in improving the access of minority group to kidney transplant. He continues to work on implementing a pilot project to get preliminary data that will be used to seek additional funding for a full scale clinical trial.

Keila Lopez, M.D., M.P.H.: Dr. Lopez continues as an Assistant Professor in Pediatric Cardiology at Texas Children's Hospital. She has applied for two grants following the PRIDE Summer Institute, and is waiting to hear back on the results of those. She is currently submitting a manuscript for publication on work that she completed with the Texas Birth Defects Registry on Heterotaxy Syndrome patients.

Brandi Franklin, Ph.D., M.B.A.: Dr. Franklin recently received a small grant from the Tennessee Department of Health to pilot a community-based diabetes prevention program for underserved minorities in the Memphis urban core. This project begins in January 2013, as part of a larger collaborative effort to increase delivery of diabetes prevention services through community organizations, health clinics, and employers.

Mark Fields, Ph.D., M.P.H.: Dr. Fields has received his core clinical research training (CCRT) certificate from the South Carolina Translational Research Institute at the Medical

Cohort 2 Scholars —

[L-R] Brandi Franklin, Mark Fields, Kajua Lor, Vaughn Whittaker, and Keila Lopez



University of South Carolina. He also has received a nomination to represent the university for an Ellison New Scholar Award in Aging. He is submitting a proposal to the IRB for approval to begin to collect patient samples for his project entitled "Treatment of Geographic Atrophy Using RPE Derived from Patient-Specific Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs)."

Kajua Lor, Pharm.D.: Dr. Lor continues as an Assistant Professor at Touro University, California - College of Pharmacy and a clinical pharmacist at Clinic Ole. She recently received an intramural grant to pilot a project on training student pharmacists to work with interpreters. Currently, she is completing a telephone survey to examine the perceptions of western medicine versus herbal medicines in the Hmong Sacramento community. This project was accepted as a platform presentation for the Hmong National Development Conference in April 2013. Additionally, she will be submitting a manuscript to the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education on a randomized trial of the impact of novel intervention on empathy scores in second year student pharmacists.



Georgia Health Sciences University

Functional and Applied Genomics of Blood Disorders

The GHSU FAGBD participants have been very busy academically since attending the PRIDE I Summer Institute. Cohort 2 Mentees are currently preparing for their Mid-Year visits at their Mentors' institutions around the country. This visit provides an excellent opportunity for Mentees and Mentors to collaborate and expand on their research programs. During this visit, Mentees are encouraged to: learn new techniques in the Mentor's lab, discuss grant writing in detail, continue to develop their project, obtain feedback from their Mentor on research projects, and discuss career planning.

We congratulate **Dr. Echezona Ezeanolue** in Cohort 2 who was awarded an R01 grant! Cohort 1 Mentees have successfully completed the PRIDE Program and all seven Mentees were awarded Certificates of Completion on the last day of their Summer Institute (see photo). Cohort 1 Mentees have continued with their efforts to strengthen their chances of being awarded by publishing research findings in peer-reviewed journals. Two Mentees published four papers in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*. **Dr. Levi Makala** reported that he co-authored a book chapter entitled "The Hemoglobin Regulatory Regions." Also, five Mentees (**Witola, Presley, Xiong, Singh, and Ahmed**) were awarded intramural grants to further their research programs in preparation for NIH K-awards during 2013.

We are proud of their accomplishments and will continue to track their academic and career advancement success!



GHSU PRIDE 2012 Cohort 2 Mentees and Mentors

[Standing, L-R] Mentors: Betty Pace (Director), Peter Gallagher, John Adams, Marsha Treadwell, Carlton Haywood, Jr, Lindsey Cohen, Charmaine Royal, Joseph Telfair, and Juan González (Co-Director)

[Seated] Mentees: Alecia Nero, Kamal El Bissati, Olufolake Adisa, Abena Appiah-Kubi, Anya Griffin, Raymona Lawrence, and Echezona Ezeanolue

Congratulations to GHSU FAGBD Scholars!

GHSU Cohort 1 Mentees Awarded Certificates

[L-R] William Witola, Tracie Gibson, May Xiong, Sharon Singh, Tennille Presley, Rafat Ahmed, and Levi Makala



Investing in America's Future:
Mentoring Researchers in
Latino Health Disparities

Mentoring Researchers in Latino Health Disparities

Congratulations to Dr. John Ruiz!



John Ruiz, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University of North Texas

Dr. John Ruiz is a Cohort 2 Mentee with the PRIDE Program for Mentoring Researchers in Latino Health Disparities at San Diego State University. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of North Texas.

His research interest is focused on the Latino Mortality Paradox. His work explores the possibility of an illness recovery advantage. Dr. Ruiz is also the Chair of the American Psychological Association (APA), Division 38 (Health Psychology) Diversity Council, where he has contributed to the dissemination of Latino health and health disparities research. In this capacity, Dr. Ruiz will highlight the PRIDE Programs at the 2013 APA Annual Convention in Hawaii at the Diversity Symposium.

Dr. Ruiz recently received an R01 of \$1.63 million from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to conduct a three-year study to determine a possible link between social vigilance and risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

Just this month, Dr. Ruiz published a paper* in the *American Journal of Public Health*. According to Dr. John Elder, MRLHD Program Director, "This paper and a lot of his other work is going to send him to the top of our field."

We are extremely proud of his continued success!

*Ruiz JM, Steffen P, Smith T. Hispanic mortality paradox: [A systematic review and meta-analysis of the longitudinal literature](#). *American Journal of Public Health* 2013; (doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2012.301103):e1-e9.

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**Do you meet the criteria for
the PRIDE Programs?**

Click below to find out:

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

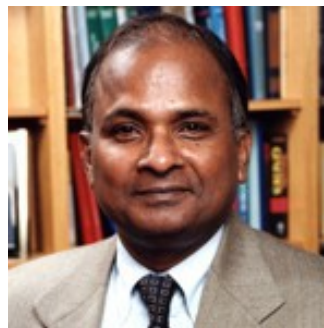
The primary goal of the **Programs to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE)** is to encourage scientists and research-oriented faculty from diverse backgrounds to further develop their research skills and to gain experience in advanced methods and experimental approaches in basic and applied sciences relevant to heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders.



**PRIDE Programs
Funded by the
National Institutes
of Health /
National Heart Lung
and Blood Institutes**

PRIDE Faculty News — D.C. Rao Named as 2012 AAAS Fellow

Dr. D.C. Rao is one of seven Washington University in St. Louis (WUStL) faculty members named as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society. Members are given the rank of fellow, the highest honor awarded by AAAS, by their peers in recognition of scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. The WUStL faculty members are among 702 new fellows acknowledged in the November 30, 2012 issue of Science Magazine. The 2012 AAAS fellows also will be honored at a February 16th ceremony at the organization's annual meeting in Boston.



D.C. Rao, Ph.D.
PI of the Cardiovascular
Genetic Epidemiology
PRIDE Summer Institute

training the next generation of researchers. He is Director of the Summer Institute in Genetic Epidemiology of Cardiovascular Disease, one of the six training programs in the Summer Institute Programs to Increase Diversity (PRIDE). Also, Dr. Rao is the Director of the Genetic Epidemiology Masters of Science (GEMS) Training Program and the Masters of Science in Biostatistics (MSIBS) Training Program at Washington University. In addition, he directs a postdoctoral training grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

For further details see full article at:

<https://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/24626.aspx>

**Congratulations to
Dr. D.C. Rao!**

Among Dr. Rao's academic interests is a commitment to

Gearing up for the PRIDE 2013 Annual Meeting —

The **PRograms to Increase Diversity Among Individual Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE)** is preparing for its second **Annual Meeting** to be held in the Bethesda, MD area from **May 8-10, 2013**.

Activities will include:

- **Mock Study Sections** hosted by Faculty and Mentors, with feedback and guidance from NIH program staff
- **Oral Presentations** by Mentees of their PRIDE-supported work
- **Poster Presentations** by Mentees of their PRIDE-supported work
- **Mentoring Workshop** hosted by outside experts

Several renown guest speakers have been invited to share their insights and experience with the Trainees and others in attendance. Among them:

- **Dr. Gary Gibbons, NIH**
- **Dr. James Gavin, Emory University School of Medicine**
- **Dr. Michael DeBaun, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine**
- **Dr. Lawrence Fine, NIH**
- **Dr. Fungai Chanetsa, NIH**

We look forward to another outstanding event!

**Accepting Applications
for
Cohort 3 Summer Institute**

~ Application Deadline is March 1, 2013 ~

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

Programs to Increase Diversity (PRIDE) is a consortium of NHLBI-funded Summer Institute Training Programs for Junior Faculty.

- Each Summer Institute Training Program has the common goal of increasing the diversity among individuals who are engaged in health-related research
- Each Summer Institute Program has a unique, specialized research focus, as described below under Summer Institute Training Programs

Eligible individuals are encouraged to apply to the Summer Institute Program in your area of interest

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to participate in a PRIDE Summer Institute Training Program, you must be:

- a junior-level faculty member or scientist (postdocs not eligible)
- from a minority group that is under-represented in the biomedical or health sciences
- a United States Citizen or Permanent United States Resident

If you meet the eligibility criteria, we invite you to complete and submit your [Pre-Application](#) to PRIDE today

General Program Structure

- All expenses paid for a 3-week (on average) Summer Institute Training Program for two consecutive summers
- Year-long mentoring experience with recognized experts in the field
- Didactic course-work and hands-on practical training
- Specific training and coaching in grant-writing skills
- Mid-year meeting
- Annual Conference in Bethesda, Maryland

Summer Institute Training Programs

Behavioral and Sleep Medicine

Location: SUNY Downstate Medical College, New York, New York

PI: Girardin Jean-Louis, Ph.D. Co-Director: Gbenga Ogedegbe, M.D.

Cardiovascular Genetic Epidemiology

Location: Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri

PI: D.C. Rao, Ph.D. Co-Director: Victor Davila-Roman, M.D.

Cardiovascular-Related Research

Location: SUNY Downstate Medical College, New York, New York

PI: Mohamed Boutjdir, Ph.D. Co-Director: Judith Mitchell, M.D.

Comparative Effectiveness Research

Location: Columbia University, New York, New York

PI: Melissa D. Begg, Sc.D. MPI: Karina Davidson, Ph.D. MPI: Anne Taylor, M.D.

Functional and Applied Genomics of Blood Disorders

Location: Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia

PI: Betty Pace, M.D. Co-Director: Juan González, Ph.D.

Mentoring Researchers in Latino Health Disparities

Location: San Diego State University, San Diego, California

PI: John Elder, Ph.D. Co-Director: Greg Talavera, M.D.

Complete [PRIDE Pre-Application Form](#) and submit by deadline date of March 1, 2013, or until all positions are filled.

- Eligible applicants will be asked to complete the full application
- Full application includes current CV, letters of reference, and additional information such as educational and research background

For further information, email the [PRIDE Coordination Core](#)

Location: Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri

PI: Treva Rice, Ph.D.

or directly contact the Summer Institute Training Program of your choice.