

Eighth Annual World Health Continuing Medical Education Conference

Health Disparities Impacting Global and Local Populations

June 6, 2025

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
Alumni Auditorium
395 Lenox Road
Brooklyn, New York 11203

Jointly provided by Healthfirst, Howard University College of Medicine, Howard University College of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Professional Education, MediNova, and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University



Eighth Annual World Health Continuing Medical Education Conference: "Health Disparities Impacting Global And Local Populations"

Program Overview

This Continuing Medical Education activity is designed to update primary care and specialty practices on evolving strategies for implementing evidence-based medicine to meet the needs of local, regional, and global communities. The intent is to inform the attendees on innovations in treating special patient populations. Using evidence-based prevention, chronic-disease management, pharmacotherapy, and cutting-edge treatment options, participants will be introduced to advanced approaches to improve patient outcomes.

Program Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- **Outline** pragmatic tools and innovations that can be used in practice to address health equity in the communities they serve
- **Explain** the cause for increased prevalence of chronic conditions amongst vulnerable populations and recognize care models that are in place to address these disparities
- **Discuss** the role of cultural factors in trauma experiences and responses and how to integrate trauma-informed care into practice to address mental and behavioral health needs of marginalized communities
- **Identify** solutions and resources available to address the needs of the communities discussed

Target Audience

This activity is designed for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, pharmacists, social workers, residents, fellows, medical students, graduate students, and practice leaders that serve high-risk populations.

Joint Providership Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Health Sciences University and Healthfirst. The State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Designation Statement

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University designates this live activity for a maximum of **6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nursing: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Northeast Multistate Division Education Unit, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Attendance of at least 90% of the live activity is required for nursing contact credits.

Social Workers: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0469.

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Disclosure Summary

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Office of CME (OCME) and its affiliates are committed to providing educational activities that are objective, balanced, and as free of bias as possible. The OCME has established policies to identify and mitigate conflicts of interest prior to this educational activity. As an accredited provider, we are required to mitigate and disclose to the activity audience the financial relationships of the planners, presenters, and authors involved in the development of accredited content. A financial relationship exists if he or she has a financial relationship in any amount occurring in the past 24 months with an ineligible company whose products or services are discussed in the accredited activity content over which the individual has control. All financial relationships have been fully disclosed and mitigated. No commercial support is being received for this event. This educational activity does not include any content that relates to the products and/or services of an Ineligible company with whom there is a financial relationship.

ADA Statement

Special Needs: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University seeks to make this conference accessible to all. If you have a disability that might require special accommodation, please email your need(s) to Angela Sullivan at asullivan@healthfirst.org or call 917-748-8455.

ACPE Pharmacist CE Credit Available

Howard University College of Pharmacy, (COP) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. This program meets ACPE criteria for 7.75 contact hours (0.775 CEUs) for Pharmacists. CE credit will be awarded through the CPE Monitor within 3–4 weeks of the seminar to those who successfully complete the program by registering for this event, attending the webinar, obtaining a score \geq 70% on the POST-TEST and completing the evaluation. The UANs for each educational CE activity are listed in the program brochure. The deadline to claim CE for this program is August 1, 2025.



Registration

If you need additional information or to register for the conference, please email Angela Sullivan, Healthfirst, at ASullivan@healthfirst.org or call 917-748-8455.

AGENDA

7:30AM – 8:15AM

Breakfast and Registration

Welcome and Introduction into CME Activity

Karen M. Costley, MD, MPH, CHCQM

Assistant Vice President, Medical Director, Healthfirst

Shelly McDonald-Pinkett, MD, FACP, CPHQ

Director, Howard University Health and Wellness Center

8:15AM – 8:30AM

Henry R. Paul, MD

President, MediNova

Moro O. Salifu, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP

Chair of the Department of Medicine

Tenured Professor of Medicine

Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology,

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

Session 1

Advancing Justice: Historical Roots and Future Solutions for Health Equity

Torian Easterling, MD, MPH

Senior Vice President for Population and Community Health

Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer, One Brooklyn Health

Patient Engagement and Cultural Competence: Road Map to Achieve Health Equity

8:30AM – 10:30AM

Mauvareen Beverley, MD, PLLC

Patient Engagement and Cultural Competence Specialist

Ethical Decision Making in Diverse Populations

Karen Roberts Turner, JD, MA

Senior Associate General Counsel for Health Sciences

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Ethics, Howard University

The Cost of Getting it Wrong

Brenda D. McDonald, RN, BSN, JD, MBA, CPHRM

Chief Risk Advisor, National Healthcare Practice, Aon

10:30AM - 10:45AM

Question and Answer Session

10:45AM - 11:00AM

Break: 15-minutes

AGENDA

Session 2

Ensuring Optimal Kidney Health for All: The Past, the Present, and the Future

Dinushika Mohottige, MD, MPH

*Assistant Professor, Institute of Health Equity Research
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Mount Sinai Barbara T. Murphy Division of Nephrology*

Equity in Kidney Care: Reducing Nephrotoxin Burden and Improving Acute Kidney Injury Outcomes

Dhakrit (Jesse) Rungkitwattanakul, PharmD, BCPS, FNKF

*Associate Professor, Nephrology Pharmacist
Howard University College of Pharmacy*

Bridging the Gap: Addressing Disparities in Access to Kidney Transplantation

Anthony C. Watkins, MD, FACS

*Surgical Director, Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Program
Tampa General Hospital Transplant Institute*

11:00AM - 12:30PM

12:30PM - 12:45PM

Question and Answer Session

12:45PM - 1:30PM

Lunch: 45-minutes

Session 3

Advances in Hypertension Control: New Concepts and Approaches

Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASPC, FNLA, FPCNA (hon.)

*Gerald S. Berenson Endowed Chair in Preventative Cardiology
Professor of Medicine,
Tulane University School of Medicine*

Global Burden of Disease of Benign Gynecological Conditions

Christina Pardo, MD, MPH, FACOG

*Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine
Medical Director, Women's Health Practice
NewYork-Presbyterian - Ambulatory Care Network*

Uterine Myomas

Ambereen Sleemi, MD, MPH, MSc, FACOG, FURPS

*Co-Founder, Executive Director and Surgical Director
International Medical Response Foundation*

1:30PM - 3:00PM

3:00PM - 3:15PM

Question and Answer Session

AGENDA

3:15PM - 3:30PM

Break: 15-minutes

Panel Discussion: Mental Health and Trauma-informed Care

Wisdom, Courage and Hope: Effective Interdisciplinary Care
for Survivors of Torture and Forced Migrant Populations

Hawthorne E. Smith, PhD

Director, Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture

President - National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs

Getting to the Root: Examining Trauma Conscious Care
from a Decolonized Lens

3:30PM - 4:30PM

Krystal Miller, LCSW, CIMHP, Spiritual Herbalist

Holistic Practitioner and Clinical Psychotherapist

Melanated Masks

The Significance of Culturally Informed Care
for Vulnerable Populations with Mental Illness

Asa T. Briggs, DNP, PMHNP, MA

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Briggs Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, PC

4:30PM

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Torian Easterling, MD, MPH



Senior Vice President for Population and Community Health Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer One Brooklyn Health

Dr. Torian Easterling is a family medicine and public health physician, serves as the Senior Vice President for Population and Community Health and Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer for One Brooklyn Health. OBH is a three-member hospital system, with an extensive network of primary and specialty care in Central Brooklyn, whose mission is to preserve and enhance delivery of care in Central Brooklyn. Prior to his role at One Brooklyn Health, Dr. Easterling served as the First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer at the NYC Health Department. As the First Deputy Commissioner and inaugural Chief Equity Officer, Dr. Easterling worked to align the agency's external and internal equity initiatives. He led the City's equity response for the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring equitable distribution of vaccines to populations and communities hardest hit. He also led implementation of anti-racist public health practices including the agency's internal Race to Justice program and oversaw the Health Department's Take Care New York initiative which centers community collaboration to reimagine neighborhood health. Dr. Easterling spent more than 7 years in a senior leadership role at the Health Department, leading initiatives focused on reducing overall premature mortality and closing the racial gap for the top leading causes of preventable death. Prior to the Health Department, Dr. Easterling served as an Assistant Professor for the Department of Family Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) training medical students and implementing community health initiatives.

Dr. Easterling holds a Bachelor of Science from Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA), a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School, and a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Icahn School of Medicine at Sinai in New York. He completed his residency in Family Medicine at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens, NY, and a General Preventive Medicine residency at Icahn School of Medicine at Sinai in New York.



Mauvareen Beverley, MD, PLLC



Patient Engagement and Cultural Competence Specialist

Dr. Mauvareen Beverley is an executive-level physician with 20 years of experience advocating for improving patient engagement and cultural competence for all populations, and especially African American communities. Dr. Beverley is a member of The National Medical Association (NMA) and her article, Patient engagement and cultural sensitivity as a strategy to improve health equities: The solutions are simple as they are complex, was published in the NMA Journal in 2022. She is also a member of The National Association of Health Service Executives (NAHSE), American Medical Association (AMA). Dr. Beverley is a Fellow at the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) and her abstract, Health Disparities and Epidemics: Perception vs. Reality, was selected for presentation at NYAM 12th Annual History of Medicine.

In 2021, she received the Excellence in Medicine Award from the Bronx County Medical Society. Dr. Beverley received her bachelor's degree from Boston University and her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Harlem Hospital-NY Columbia Presbyterian. She currently serves as Founder and President of Mauvareen Beverley, MD, PLLC, Patient Engagement and Cultural Competence Specialist. Her Book is #1 in New Release Category and #4 Health on Amazon.



Karen Roberts Turner, JD, MA



Senior Associate General Counsel for Health Sciences Adjunct Assistant Professor of Ethics Howard University

Karen Roberts Turner, Esquire is a DC-based attorney with nearly 34 years of experience handling complex civil, commercial, and medical malpractice cases. During her 22 years in private practice, Ms. Turner developed a reputation as a highly skilled trial attorney and a formidable opponent. As a testament to her success, she was selected for inclusion in the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the category of medical malpractice defense and was voted by her peers as a Super Lawyer in D.C. and Maryland for multiple years running. Additionally, she was named a Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society.

In 2013, Ms. Turner transitioned from private practice to become Senior Associate General Counsel for Health Sciences at Howard University where she expanded her practice portfolio beyond health care litigation to encompass quality and risk management, medical staff governance, hospital law, and patient relations. Ms. Turner also became a certified mediator and has provided alternative dispute resolution services through the Small Claims and Civil Divisions of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Throughout her career, Ms. Turner has demonstrated a strong commitment to education by teaching a variety of courses in esteemed academic settings. She has instructed students in legal methods, legal research and writing, and oral advocacy at George Washington University Law School and American University Washington College of Law. Additionally, she has served as a Lecturer and later as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine at Howard University, where she co-taught courses in health care ethics and medical jurisprudence.

Currently, Ms. Turner is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University, where she teaches the course Ethics for Health Professionals. Ms. Turner earned a B.A. in Biology and Africana Studies from Vassar College. She then obtained a master's degree in Bioethics from Georgetown University, followed by a Juris Doctor from George Washington University. Apart from her legal accomplishments, Ms. Turner has had a passion for storytelling since her youth. In 2021, she published her debut fiction novel, *The Other Twin*, which received critical acclaim and was named a "Category Finalist" by the Eric Hoffer Book Awards.



Brenda D. McDonald, RN, BSN, JD, MBA, CPHRM



Chief Risk Advisor, National Healthcare Practice, Aon

Brenda D. McDonald is the Chief Risk Advisor within Aon's National Healthcare Practice. In this role she is responsible for assisting in the delivery of innovative and effective solutions to empower client results. As a risk advisor, she serves as a resource for consultation on risk reduction initiatives, effective risk transfer strategies, claims and litigation management, and enterprise risk management.

Prior to joining Aon in 2024, Brenda served as the AVP for Risk Management and Chief Risk Officer at Howard University. She first began working in the industry in 1988. Brenda's expertise includes a wide array of healthcare risk issues, including risk control/risk reduction initiatives, effective risk transfer strategies, captive utilization, claims and litigation management, and overall healthcare enterprise risk management best practices.

Brenda earned a BS in Nursing and Juris Doctorate degrees from the University of Maryland Baltimore and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus.



Dinushika Mohottige, MD, MPH



Assistant Professor, Institute of Health Equity Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Mount Sinai Barbara T. Murphy Division of Nephrology

Dr. Dinushika Mohottige is Assistant Professor in the Institute for Health Equity Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Barbara T. Murphy Division of Nephrology. She received a B.A. in Public Policy and a Health Policy Certificate from Duke University in 2006, where she was a Robertson Scholar. She then earned an MPH in Health Behavior/Health Education from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and a medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, followed by Internal Medicine/Chief Residency and Nephrology training at Duke University. She engages in patient and community-centered, inequity-focused research around the impact of socio-structural factors/racialized medicine on kidney health and kidney transplantation.



Dhakrit Rungkitwattanakul, PharmD, BCPS, FNKF



Associate Professor, Nephrology Pharmacist Howard University College of Pharmacy

Dr. Dhakrit Rungkitwattanakul (Jesse Rung) is an associate professor with the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy Sciences, Howard University College of Pharmacy in Washington, D.C. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and completed his residency training at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. He maintains his clinical practice with the nephrology consult service at Howard University Hospital (HUH) where he trains students, residents, and fellows. At HUH, he established a nephrotoxin stewardship to improve the quality of care among medically underserved patients. Throughout his career in nephrology pharmacy, he has been focusing on the improvement of medication use among patients suffering from kidney failure and reducing gaps in health outcomes among African American patients. He is a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist and a fellow of the national kidney foundation.



Anthony C. Watkins, MD, FACS

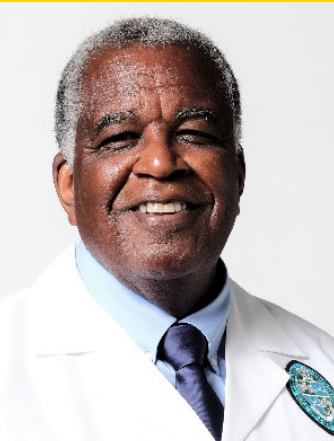


Surgical Director, Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Program Tampa General Hospital Transplant Institute

Dr. Anthony C. Watkins is a board-certified surgeon specializing in abdominal transplant surgery and currently serves as the Surgical Director of the Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Program at the Tampa General Hospital Transplant Institute in Tampa, FL. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Fisk University in Nashville, TN, and his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Dr. Watkins completed his general surgery residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ, where he also spent two years conducting research on trauma hemorrhagic shock and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. He completed his fellowship training in Multi-Organ Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University.

Dr. Watkins has held several professional positions, including Assistant Professor of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, Assistant Professor of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine, where he also served as Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program, and Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at New York University Langone Health. His research is focused on addressing disparities in transplantation and enhancing diversity in the healthcare workforce. He is currently serving as the Chair of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion committee of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and Chair of the Health Disparities & Equity Committee for the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. Currently, Dr. Watkins is the Co-Principal Investigator for an NIH U01 grant studying the impact of a program designed to mitigate disparities in access to transplantation for Black patients.





Gerald S. Berenson Endowed Chair in Preventative Cardiology Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine

Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand is Professor of Medicine at the Tulane University School of Medicine and previously Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at Xavier University, New Orleans and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Ferdinand received his medical degree from the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC. He is board-certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, certified in the subspecialty of nuclear cardiology, and a specialist in clinical hypertension. Dr. Ferdinand is a member of the Association of University Cardiologists, past Chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and prior Chief Science Officer and chair of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC). He has also served on the board of the American Society of Hypertension, the Southwest Lipid Association, and International Society of Hypertension in Blacks. He is presently on the board of the Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health, National Lipid Association, the Family Heart Foundation and the American Society for Preventive Cardiology. He was chair of the ABC Access to Care Initiative since 2016, a multi-organizational working group targeting disparities in the access to evidence-based medications and devices. He also serves the AHA National Hypertension Control Initiative (NHCI) Advisory Group, reflecting his unique perspective, experience, and expertise in hypertension. This group provides leadership and guidance to our national blood pressure initiative in the areas of clinical care and community health as an AHA cooperative agreement with the Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). He serves advisor to the National Association of Community Health Centers Million Hearts initiative with the CDC. He has conducted numerous trials in hypertension lipids, cardiometabolic risk, and cardiovascular disease especially in racial/ethnic minorities, with over 300 peer-reviewed publications and lectures nationally and internationally.

In addition to his clinical work, he has participated in numerous clinical education activities in the community, locally and nationally, regarding eliminating disparities during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the president of Healthy Heart Community Prevention Project (HHCPP) 501(c)(3) nonprofit health organization in New Orleans. In 2004, Dr. Ferdinand received the Louis B. Russell, Jr. Memorial Award of the American Heart Association. Other awards include the Congressional Black Caucus Health Trust for journalism, the Charles Drew award for medical excellence from the National Minority Quality Foundation, the Wenger Award for Medical Leadership by WomenHeart and ABC Spirit of the Heart Distinguished Leadership Award and in the 2019 Xavier University Champion Award for health equity and AHA 2019 James B. Herrick Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cardiology. He received a 2021 and again in 2022 Health Care Heroes honor, for health care professionals in the New Orleans area. Dr. Ferdinand was honored as a 2023 Living Legend Honoree by the Center for African and African American Studies at Southern University at New Orleans. In 2024, he received the Anne C. Goldberg, MD, MNLA Foundation Service Award in recognition of excellence in clinical care and education on lipidology.



Christina Pardo, MD, MPH, FACOG



Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine Medical Director, Women's Health Practice NewYork-Presbyterian - Ambulatory Care Network

Dr. Christina Pardo is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Medical Director for Women's Health Practice. Prior to her current role she was founding Director for the Division of Health Equity at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. She has worked both locally and globally to integrate equity into education, public health and clinical practice. She has expertise in working with immigrant communities and applying principles of cultural competency and humility having worked both globally and locally in immigrant communities.

Dr. Pardo has had extensive experience working globally in underserved communities and is currently the Director of Health for a development initiative in rural Haiti. She has partnered with Life of Hope, whose mission is to serve the immigrant community of Central Brooklyn. She has formed and overseen the Brooklyn Women's Equity Research Initiative, a consortium of four hospitals who provide obstetrics services to Central Brooklyn and established a research platform that has enabled several research initiatives. With other SUNY Downstate and community stakeholders, she co-leads a 2-year NYS Health Foundation grant entitled the Brooklyn Health Equity Index. In her current role, she oversees the management of care in a practice that services a predominant Medicaid population and work within the New York Presbyterian network to implement community and social services.

As an educator, Dr. Pardo has established a graduate medical education curriculum for Obstetrics and Gynecology residents focused on Women's Health Equity, integrating concepts on the social determinants of health and racism in medicine. She has collaborated with the New York City Department of Health on the implementation of programs geared to addressing Severe Maternal Morbidity. She served as an assistant professor, co-director, and director in the OBGYN Departments at Stony Brook, as well as SUNY Downstate. She is currently a member of American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology and has been recently inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.



Ambereen Sleemi, MD, MPH, MSc, FACOG, FURPS



Co-Founder, Executive Director and Surgical Director International Medical Response Foundation

Dr. Ambereen Sleemi is a female pelvic medicine reconstructive surgeon and trained obstetric fistula surgeon. She is Co-founder, Executive Director and Surgical Director of International Medical Response and leads obstetric fistula training programs in Liberia, The Gambia, Pakistan and Haiti as well as medical relief projects in Ukraine, Vieques, PR and Destra, Haiti.

Dr. Sleemi served as an obstetric fistula surgeon for the Eritrean Women's Project in Mendefera, Eritrea since 2007 until 2018, and as a surgical team co-leader for Medicine in Action's medical trips to Kingston, Jamaica as well as on the medical board. She spent 8 years on the executive committee of the International Society for Obstetric Fistula Surgeons (ISOFS) and is still an active member. In January 2013, she developed the Haitian Women's Health Collaborative in partnership with the Department of Ob/Gyn at the National Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and trained surgeons in FPMRS at St Boniface Hospital in southern Haiti.



Hawthorne E. Smith, PhD



Director, Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture President - National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs

Dr. Hawthorne E. Smith is a licensed psychologist, and the Director of the Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture. He is an Associate Clinical Professor at the NYU School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry, as well as the President of the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs. Dr. Smith received his doctorate in Counseling Psychology (with distinction) from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Smith had previously earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, an advanced certificate in African Studies from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, as well as a master's in international Affairs from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

Among his clinical duties, Dr. Smith has facilitated a support group for French-speaking African survivors of torture for the past 27 years. He also speaks extensively at professional conferences and seminars on providing clinical services for survivors of socio-political violence and enhancing cross-cultural clinical skills among therapeutic service providers. Dr. Smith has been recognized for his work with such awards as: the Robin Hood Foundation's "Hero Award"; the "Frantz Fanon Award" from the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health; the "W.E.B. DuBois Award" from the International Youth Leadership Institute; the "Distinguished Alumni – Early Career Award" from Teachers College; the "Man of Distinction Award" from the National Association of Health Service Executives; the "Union Square Award for Community Advocacy" from the Fund for the City of New York; and a "Humanitarian Award" from the Consul General of the Republic of Haiti .

Prior to coming to Bellevue, Dr. Smith was a youth counselor to "court involved youth" in Washington, DC during the height of the crack epidemic. He then coordinated care at a shelter for homeless families in San Francisco prior to, and in the aftermath of 1989 earthquake. Dr. Smith was also a co-founding member of Nah We Yone, Inc. (a non-profit organization working primarily with refugees from Sierra Leone, as well as other displaced Africans in New York), and helped to coordinate the International Youth Leadership Institute (IYLI), a leadership program for marginalized New York City teens. Currently, Dr. Smith provides forensic evaluations, human rights consultations, and mitigation services on capital cases for private legal firms and public entities such as the US Department of Defense and the US Office of the Federal Defender. Dr. Smith is also a professional musician (saxophonist and vocalist) with national and international experience.



Krystal Miller, LCSW, CIMHP, Spiritual Herbalist



Holistic Practitioner and Clinical Psychotherapist Melanated Masks

Krystal Miller is a clinical social worker and a spiritual herbalist that centers her practice on the balance of science and spirit while curating experiences for exploration within community and our inner world. Through her practice, Melanated Masks, she focuses on reconnecting us with our mind, body, soul, and the core of our culture. This holistic healing practice includes movement through therapeutic yoga, integrative nutrition, connection to herbal allies and rebuilding the intuition that has always been within us for generations from our ancestors while embodying the energy of an old friend on the stoop. Walking in the spirit of "I am because We are," she provides 1:1 service as well as intimate community conversations around holistic mental wellness and herbalism. Join her at the intersection of science and spirit, where true magic lives.



Asa T. Briggs, DNP, PMHNP, MA



Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Briggs Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, PC

Dr. Asa T. Briggs began his career as a psychiatric practitioner at Unity Health Care, Inc. (Unity), the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in the District of Columbia. For seven years, Dr. Briggs served as the Discipline Director of Psychiatry at Unity, providing leadership in the areas of quality improvement and best practice guidelines.

Originally from South Carolina, Dr. Briggs has served as an adviser to profit and not-for-profit organizations. His expertise aids organizations in understanding the importance of increasing their capacity to address the dearth of local and global resources necessary to appropriately treat vulnerable populations with mental health challenges.

Dr. Briggs has been involved with mental health advocacy at the state, local and federal levels. He provided insight for President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative —helping to shape policy on how to prepare students of color emotionally and mentally for the difficulties in the education arena. In 2022, Dr. Briggs opened Briggs Psychiatry and Behavioral Health in Greenville, SC to serve individuals with mental health challenges in low resource communities.



COURSE DIRECTORS

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*Assistant Vice President, Medical Director
Healthfirst*

Shelly McDonald-Pinkett, MD, FACP, CPHQ
*Director, Howard University
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*Chair of the Department of Medicine
Tenured Professor of Medicine
Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University*

FACULTY

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**Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA,
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Hawthorne E. Smith, PhD

Karen Roberts Turner, JD, MA

Anthony C. Watkins, MD, FACS

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About Healthfirst

Healthfirst believes that every New Yorker deserves access to the best available healthcare. As one of New York's highest quality not-for-profit health insurers serving two million New Yorkers, we make this a reality for our members. Founded more than 30 years ago by the leading hospital systems in downstate New York, Healthfirst established a partnership model that enables hospitals, health systems, and physicians in our network to prioritize health outcomes over profits, placing the needs of our members and community first. Healthfirst serves members in New York City, on Long Island, and in Westchester, Rockland, Sullivan, and Orange counties, offering market-leading products to suit every life stage. Our offerings include Medicaid plans, Medicare Advantage plans, Child Health Plus plans, Essential Plans, Long-Term Care plans, and Qualified Health plans. For more information on Healthfirst, please visit healthfirst.org.

About Howard University College of Medicine

Founded in 1868, the College of Medicine takes pride in its long and illustrious history of training students to become competent and compassionate physicians who provide health care in medically underserved communities.

While the College offers excellent research and research training opportunities, the major emphasis is on preparing students to deliver patient care in communities that have a shortage of physicians and public health professionals.

The College living alumni, more than 4,000, are a testimony that an excellent medical education can be obtained at Howard. Although opportunities for minority students have increased at other medical schools, the College uniquely addresses the special health care needs of medically underserved communities and continues to produce a significant number of the nation's minority physicians. The College is a part of Howard University, a comprehensive research university. While the University community has traditionally been predominantly black, Howard has been an interracial and cosmopolitan institution throughout its history, with students, faculty, and staff of all races and from many foreign nations. All must meet the high standards of excellence of Howard University, which has the largest concentration of black faculty and student scholars in the country.

In addition to the College of Medicine, the Howard University Health Sciences Center includes the Howard University Hospital; the College of Dentistry; the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences; the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library; and the Student Health Center. Located in the nation's capital, the College can draw upon the immense medical resources of this area, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine.

About Howard University College of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Professional Education

The Howard University College of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Professional Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a CE Provider of Continuing Education for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The Office has been an accredited provider since 1995 and accredits numerous programs each year on various topics of relevance on the local, regional, and national levels of healthcare.

To assist pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in meeting their licensure requirements while advancing their practice, Howard University College of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Professional Education has accredited and/or partnered with various organizations, companies and associations including but not limited to:

- Washington, D.C. Pharmacy Association (WDCPhA)
- Howard University College of Pharmacy Alumni Association
- Clinical Pharmacy Associates (CPA)
- Ghanaian Pharmacists Association (GPhA)
- Ethiopian Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists in Diaspora (EPPAD)
- Mid-Atlantic Aids Education and Training Center (MAAETC), and American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCPP).

Mission

The Howard University College of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Professional Education is dedicated to advancing the growth and excellence of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and other pharmacy professionals across diverse practice environments. Our primary focus lies in crafting educational initiatives that delve into contemporary trends in drug therapy management, placing special emphasis on areas mandated by the Washington, D.C. pharmacy licensure criteria. Additionally, we are committed to enhancing the skills and knowledge required for effectively managing diseases within various population groups.

Goal

The goal of the Howard University College of Pharmacy Continuing Professional Education Program is to achieve the mission statement of the Howard University College of Pharmacy CPE programs will be to:

- Impact pharmacy practice in a variety of practice settings
- Impact coverage of training areas emphasized by the Washington, D.C. pharmacy licensure requirements
- Have an impact on pharmacy practice in a variety of specific disease populations.

About MediNova

Mission

We have a two-part mission:

To provide accessible, high-quality medical treatment to the underserved communities of Northeastern Haiti in a manner that protects the dignity and independence of our patients with the highest standards of integrity, impartiality, and openness.

To advance the field of primary medical care in the community by providing educational opportunities for both current and future local medical practitioners.

Vision

We are seeking to advance the continued growth, advancement, and sustainability of medical care in the region by both directly providing primary care to underserved communities and individuals in a manner reflecting our commitment to respect, excellence and integrity in addition to training future and current local medical practitioners in the latest and most effective means of treatment. We believe that all individuals have the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, which includes access to medical services.

About SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

Formally known as The State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, but better known to our patients and Brooklyn neighbors as SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, we are older than the Brooklyn Bridge. We trace our roots back to 1860, when a school of medicine was founded at the Long Island College Hospital. The new college's faculty revolutionized medical education in this country by bringing the teaching of medicine to the hospital bedside, thus rejecting the idea that physicians should be trained exclusively in university lecture halls.

Today, SUNY Downstate is one of the nation's leading urban medical centers. SUNY Downstate comprises a College of Medicine, School of Health Professions, College of Nursing, School of Graduate Studies, School of Public Health, and University Hospital of Brooklyn. The quality of our education, research, and patient care programs was confirmed with the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Medicine to Dr. Robert Furchgott, a member of our School of Graduate Studies faculty since 1956. Dr. Furchgott's identification of nitric oxide as a signaling molecule important in vascular health has revolutionized care for heart, stroke, impotence, and other diseases.

As the only academic medical center in Brooklyn, we serve a large population – over 2.3 million people – and one that is among the most diverse in the world. We are also an engine of opportunity for students interested in pursuing careers in health care. Many of our students are the first in their families to attend college.

More physicians who practice medicine in New York City received their training at our College of Medicine than any other medical center in the country. Nationally, our medical school ranks seventh in the number of graduates who are now engaged in academic medicine. Here in Brooklyn, our impact is even greater. We have trained nearly half of all doctors practicing in a number of specialty areas.

Our School of Health Professions and College of Nursing also play a unique role in the borough and the city. We have the oldest midwifery program in the country, and we recently made history again by establishing a joint program between the two colleges that trains midwives who are not nurses. The College of Nursing is particularly proud of its role in educating minority students. Approximately three-fourths of the students are minority-group members, and many are recent immigrants.

University Hospital of Brooklyn is the borough's only hospital located at an academic medical center. As such, it offers the most advanced and comprehensive care in Brooklyn. Many of its physicians are regularly rated among the best in New York City. Some are known throughout the world. SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University enters the new century with a renewed dedication to serving the people of Brooklyn through its three-fold mission of education, research, and patient care.



**Thank you for attending the Eighth Annual World Health
Continuing Medical Education Conference:
Health Disparities Impacting Global and Local Populations,
jointly provided by Healthfirst, Howard University College of Medicine, Howard
University College of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Professional Education,
MediNova, and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.**

