

# UCONN HEALTH DISPARITIES INSTITUTE



## Annual Report

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

**UCONN**  
**HEALTH**

HEALTH DISPARITIES  
INSTITUTE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Welcome
2	Overview
3	HDI Cores
4	HDI Team
5	Strategies, Systems & Administrative Core
6-9	Collaborations, Community Engagement & Technical Assistance Core
10-12	Policy Navigation & Strategic Communications Core
13-15	Data Analytic & Evaluations Core
16	Research, Training & Leadership Development Core
17-18	Funding
19-23	Publications & Presentations
24-25	Media Coverage
26-27	FY'19 Plans & Projections


We are pleased to present the Health Disparities Institute (HDI) 2017-2018 Annual Report. This has been an exciting year of leadership transition at HDI as we worked towards a number of goals:

- Stabilize and fine-tune HDI operations
- Identify, refine, and align priority areas
- Amplify community and cross-sectoral engagement
- Fortify connective tissue with UCONN faculty, departments, and students
- Support local and state-wide health equity and disparities activities
- Increase and diversify external funding sources

These goals are all designed to fulfill our legislative mandate and improve the health of Connecticut's population. We recognize that doing so will require new approaches and a focus on the root causes of health disparities. We are more excited than ever to work collectively to advance health equity.



Wisdom Powell, PhD, MPH  
Director, The Health Disparities Institute



Victor Villagra, MD  
Associate Director, The Health Disparities Institute

## About HDI

UConn established the Health Disparities Institute in 2011 as part of the Bioscience Connecticut initiative to enhance research and the delivery of care to minority and underserved populations in the state. Bioscience Connecticut is a package of state investments in UConn Health and other health care entities in the region, introduced by Governor Dannel P. Malloy, to bolster the state's health care and biomedical research capacities while creating thousands of jobs.

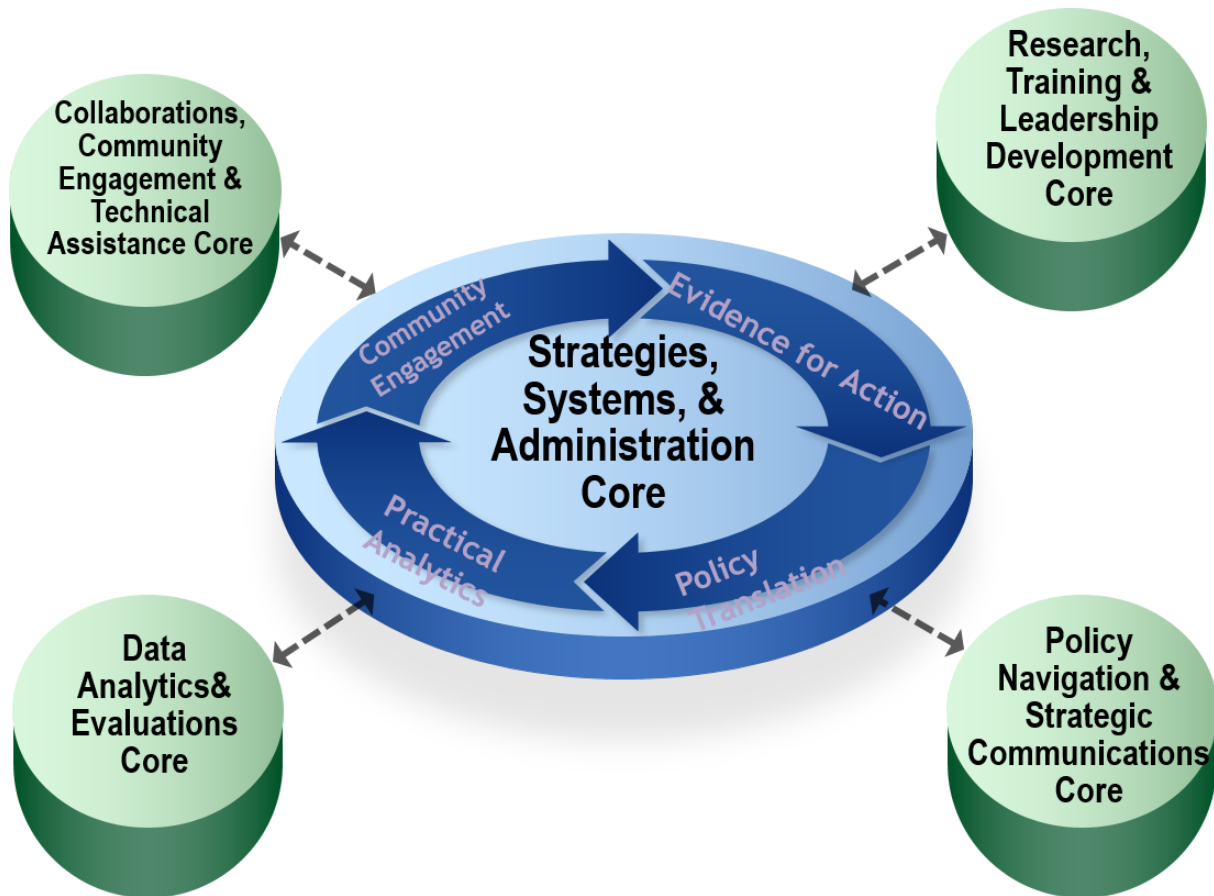
## Mission

The Health Disparities Institute is committed to producing evidence-for-action and the implementation of strategies designed to eliminate health disparities and advance health equity among Connecticut's minority and medically underserved populations.

## Approaches

We will achieve our mission by taking the following approaches:

- Applying a population health lens and focusing on root causes of CT's most pressing health disparities.
- Incubating, accelerating, and collaborating on high risk/reward transdisciplinary research.
- Amplifying existing and stimulating new community and multi-sectoral engagement.
- Leveraging arts-based methods to center youth and community voice.
- Tracking and monitoring health outcomes.
- Translating evidence into meaningful action.



During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, HDI was restructured into five interdependent cores (See Figure Above). These new cores provide an operating structure designed to improve efficiency, coordination, and workflow.

Each core is led/co-led by HDI team members who track, monitor, and implement activities.

# HDI TEAM

The HDI team members are committed to improving the well-being of Connecticut's population by eradicating health disparities and advancing health equity.

## HDI LEADERSHIP

**Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH, Director**

*Research, Training & Leadership Development  
Strategies, Systems & Administration*

**Victor Villagra, MD, Associate Director**

*Policy Navigation & Strategic Communications  
Strategies, Systems & Administration*

## HDI TEAM

**Emil Coman, PhD, Biostatistician**

*Data Analytics & Evaluations*

**Jeanette Goyzueta, MPH, Research Associate I**

*Policy Navigation & Strategic Communications*

**Allison Joslyn, MA, Research Assistant III**

*Data Analytics & Evaluations*

**Trisha Pitter, MS, Planning Specialist**

*Collaborations Community Engagement & Technical Assistance*

**Denise Smith, MBA, Research Associate I & Projects Manager**

*Collaborations, Community Engagement & Technical Assistance  
Strategies, Systems & Administration*

**Denise Patterson-Moss Solomon, BS, Administrative Program Coordinator**

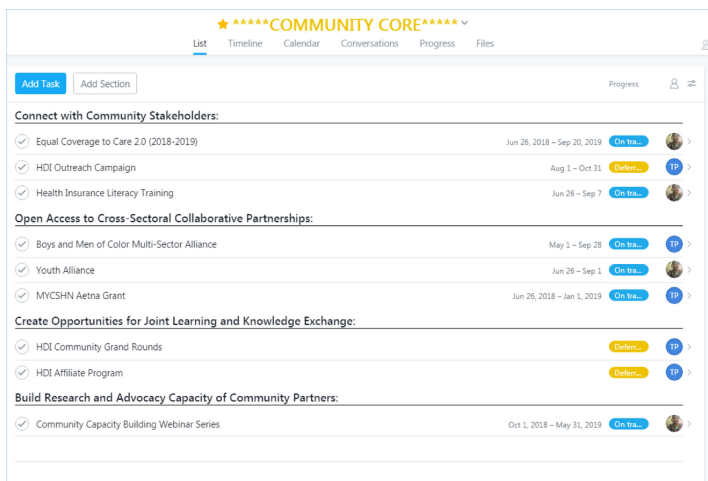
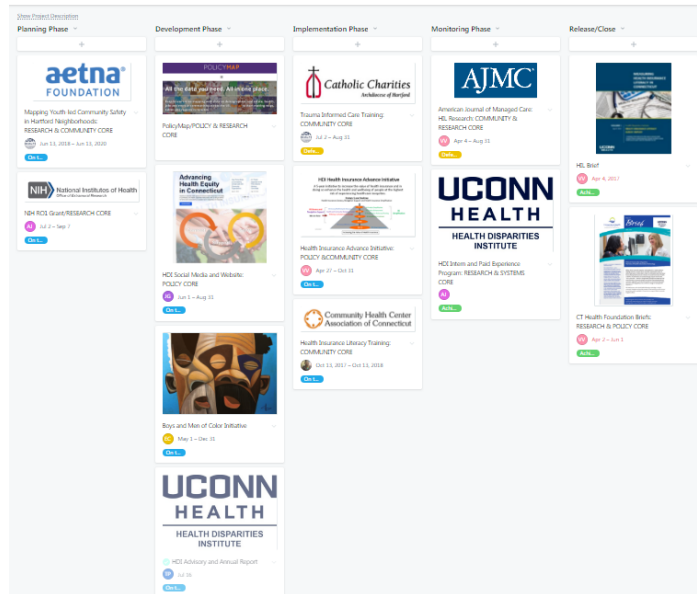
*Strategies, Systems & Administration*

# STRATEGIES, SYSTEMS & ADMINISTRATION CORE

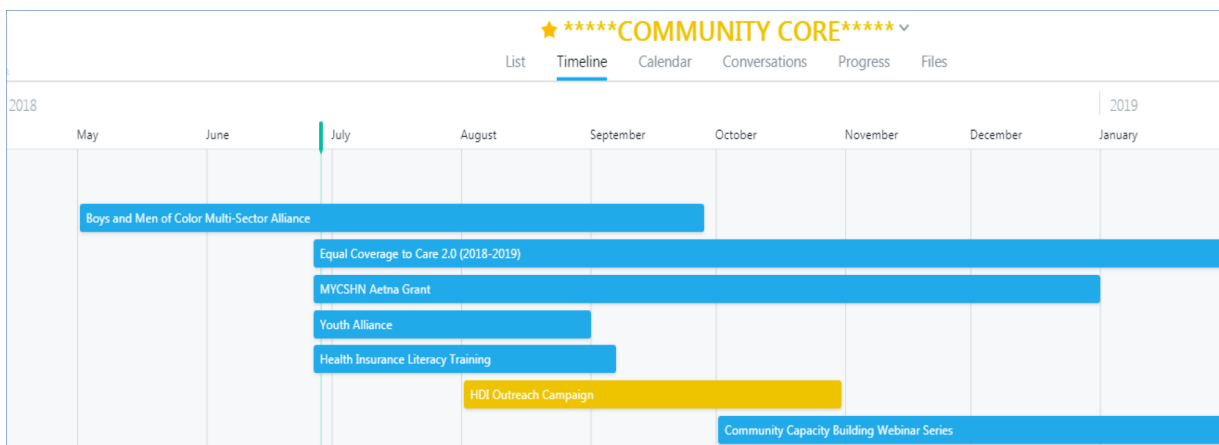
**The Strategies, Systems & Administration Core (Systems Core)** supports the cohesive strategic planning, system thinking and knowledge management across HDI. It also manages, oversees and monitors HDI's activities.

## Project oversight on ASANA

A key task of the SSA Core was to organize the HDI's initiatives and programs into the ASANA project management platform.



This platform allows HDI team members to access projects status and fiscal information in real-time, and develop reports on specified targets for program fidelity and improvement.



**The Collaborations, Community Engagement & Technical Assistance Core (Community Core)** connects HDI with community-based organizations and stakeholders; increases access to and the capacity of cross-sectoral collaborative partnerships; and creates opportunities for learning, research and advocacy through the planning, coordination and implementation of community-based outreach efforts.

## Community Core Initiatives

### **Equal Coverage to Care Coalition 2.0**

The Equal Coverage to Care Coalition seeks to increase health insurance literacy, navigation supports, and simplify health insurance through collaborative strategic planning, community-based research and policy initiatives in Connecticut.



### ***Health Disparities Institute Outreach Campaign***

HDI conducts presentations and outreach activities to increase awareness among faculty and research partners on the mission, vision and core capacity and services of the Health Disparities Institute. We are connecting with center directors and faculty at UConn Storrs, the School of Social Work, and UConn Health.

### ***Health Insurance Literacy Training***

Trainings are cross core services offered to partners and community members. Leveraging resources from our Equal Coverage to Care Coalition, national research and HDI staff expertise, these trainings increase awareness, build capacity and offer resources to diverse recipients.



## Mayor Bronin's Alleviating Child Trauma in Our Neighborhoods (ACTION) Initiative

The HDI has been partnering with a number of local and state agencies on health initiatives. Mayor Bronin's Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge application is an exemplar of HDI's community engagement and technical assistance activities. Our team worked with the Mayor's office on a community "Hackathon" designed to elicit innovative solutions to gun violence and childhood trauma.

## Boys and Men of Color (BMoC) Multi-Sector Alliance

The BMoC Alliance is comprised of 18 private, public, community, spiritual, cultural and academic sector leaders from across CT. Convened in 2018, this alliance guides and accelerates systems change for boys and men of color. Alliance members will work with HDI to set strategic priorities as well as collaborate on new and existing initiatives.



## BMoC Youth Alliance

The BMoC Youth Alliance is comprised of teens and young adults of color who are informed and engaged in BMoC Alliance strategic planning, research, and collaborative activities.

## Arts-Based Initiatives

In June 2018, HDI launched several arts-based initiatives to advance health equity in CT. These events commenced during National Men’s Health Month and focused initially on visualizing health equity for Boys and Men of Color. Bringing art to the table can stimulate authentic community dialogues about health equity among boys of men of color and accelerate home grown innovations.

This portfolio of work builds on initiatives like the National Academy of Science and Medicine Visualizing Health Equity Project, which recognizes the power of art to amplify creative strategies and solutions. HDI’s arts-based strategies also leverages Hartford’s rich tradition and ecosystem of arts and cultural centers such as the Wadsworth Atheneum, Amistad Center, the Artists’ Collective, Bushnell, Real Art Ways, TheaterWorks Hartford Stage and many others committed to celebrating the power of art to inspire discussion, critical social analysis and community connectedness.

Our Visualizing Health Equity event took place on June 11, 2018. This day-long event featured artist, CBABI Bayoc, a St. Louis native whose work has been featured by international companies such as Anheuser-Busch, Coca-Cola, New Line Cinema and art to depict cultural icons like Busta Rhymes, Missy Elliot and Prince.



CBABI visited the SAND School in Harford where he spoke with students about using art to reimagine identity. Children completed an art installation that is now displayed in the main entrance of the School. This “birds with words” art installation incorporates the school’s motto “SOAR” (Safety, Ownership, Achievement, and Respect).

## Arts-Based Initiatives

Next, CBABI spoke at our Father's Day Luncheon held at Connecticut Public Television in Hartford about his "365 Days with Dad" series – a collection of art depicting positive images of racial and ethnic minority fathers. Attendees at the event included over 65 CT fathers and their children, state senators, students, .



The day ended with an evening art gallery and panel conversation at JCJ Architecture in Hartford. CBABI was joined by local artists from the Prison Arts program, (Jeff Greene (Community Partners in Action), Jay'zon Cole (Institute for Community Research) and Andre Rochester) who discussed their use of art to promote health, social justice, and racial equity.

## **The Policy Navigation & Strategic Communications Core (Policy Core)**

bolsters HDI's capacity to anticipate, advocate, and inform policy and legislative action. The core monitors local, state, and federal health and healthcare policies, and prepares policy and evidence briefs. The core also designs, implements, and monitors HDI's digital and social media strategies.

### **Policy Core Initiatives**

#### **Health Insurance Advance Initiative**

HDI's Health Insurance Advance Initiative's goal is to increase the value of Health Insurance for people at the highest risk for experiencing health inequities. Our strategies are: 1) to improve health insurance literacy in Connecticut; 2) Improve health insurance navigation for educators, consumers and providers; and 3) to promote health insurance simplification.

#### **Medical Debt Initiative**

HDI's Medical Debt initiative (MEDDEBT) seeks to deepen understanding of the causes and consequences of medical debt among racial/ethnic minority and low income populations.

#### **Health Equity Week**

In partnership with Health Equity Solutions, HDI is working to develop CT's first Health Equity Week. This will be a week to share our initiatives in the community; highlight faculty and researchers addressing health disparities; increase awareness in the legislature; and provide the community an opportunity to share their concerns, feedback, and opinions on health disparities in their lives.

#### **Health Voucher Housing Project**

This is a multi-institution collaborative seeking to improve health and well-being by using rent assistance vouchers to relocate families suffering from environmentally related health problems to healthier neighborhoods.

**Key Elements for Advancing Clinical-Community Integration**, written by Health Disparities Institute Director, Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH, the brief provides an overview of the work and recommendations for designing effective models. The brief notes that while clinical-community models hold great promise, making them work requires coordination among organizations that are not accustomed to communicating with one another and whose relationships are often marked by longstanding distrust and challenges in sharing power and information. The brief offers recommendations for those pursuing clinical-community integration programs, and highlights models from other states that embody each recommendation.



**Clinical-Community Integration: The Role of Health Information Technology**, written by Health Disparities Institute Associate, Director Victor G. Villagra, MD, focuses on the importance of systems that allow clinical and community providers to communicate and share information about their shared clients. The brief provides examples of promising models in other states – such as a Dallas computer network that links a hospital emergency department with homeless shelters, food pantries, and organizations that serve many of the hospital's frequent visitors. It also includes lessons learned that could be applicable in Connecticut.

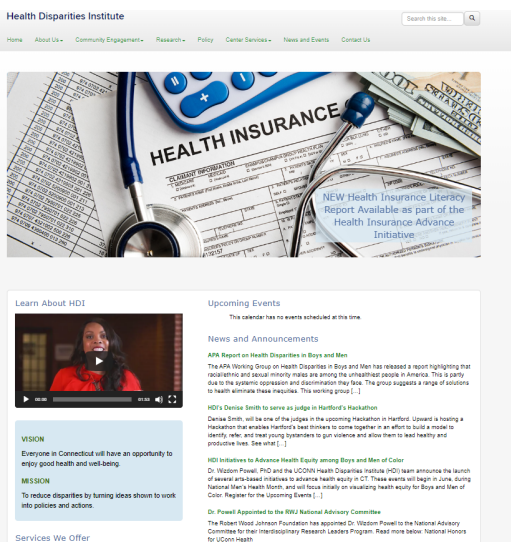
# POLICY NAVIGATION & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION CORE

## Partnerships

- Open Community Alliance and HDI will collaborate in a health and housing inter-generational initiative.
- Hartford Knights and HDI are collaborating to build capacity for advocacy and system change in social drivers of well-being, affecting boys and men of color.
- HDI has joined CT Protect our Care Coalition to advocate for policies that present health justice gains of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

## HDI Website Redesign & Social Media

HDI is in the process of redesigning its current website to reflect the work and mission of the institute as well as connect with the community through our new social media sites (Facebook & Twitter).



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UConnHDI>

### YTD Facts:

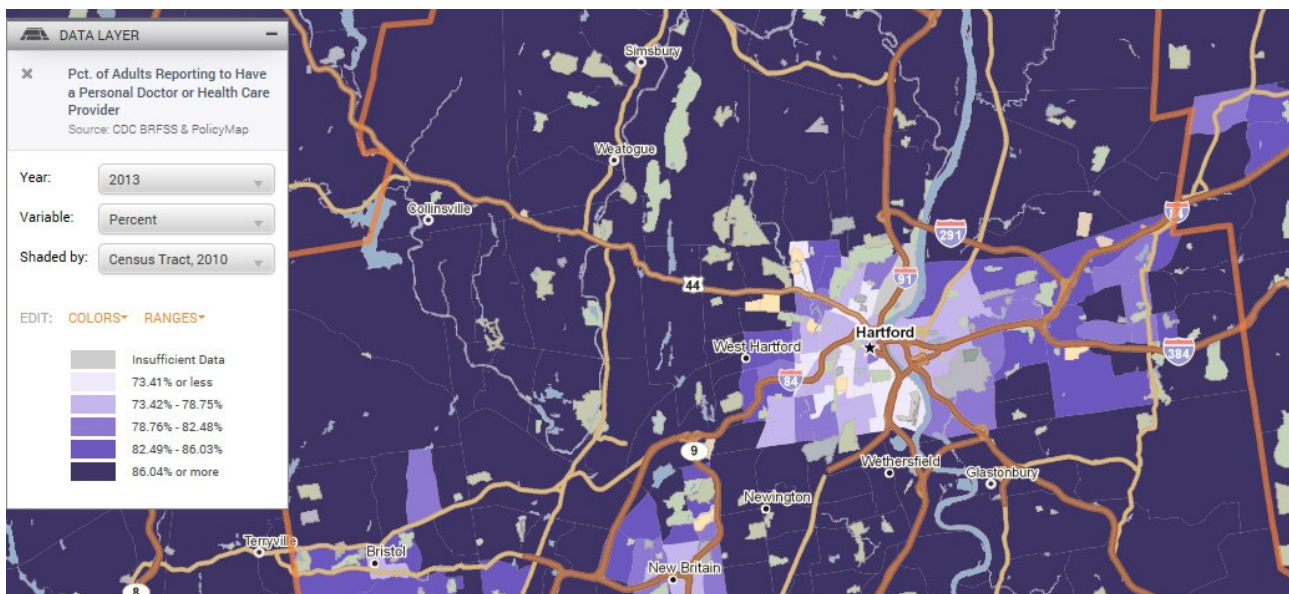
- Created in May 2018
- 69 Followers
- 37 Likes
- 75 Tweets



**The Data Analytic & Evaluations Core (Analytics Core)** priorities are to provide analytic consultation and support for HDI projects; evaluate HDI initiatives; and design methods training curriculum and activities for the Research, Training & leadership Development Core and the Collaboration, Community Engagement & Technical Assistance Core.

## Analytics Core Initiatives

HDI recently acquired an enterprise license to **PolicyMap**, a Big Data and GIS mapping tool that compiles neighborhoods, housing, health, and other information to support research and policy initiatives. HDI is currently collaborating with DPH, DSS, and UConn Health Departments in integrating local data to facilitate information sharing and strategy alignment.



HDI created a data dashboard and inaugural **Report Card on Health Equity Among Boys and Men of Color in CT**. The report presents racial and ethnic differences in health status and social drivers of well-being across the lifespan. The data dashboard encompasses web interactive visualizations. The data compiled and presented are shared with community stakeholders to promote policy action, transparency, research, and awareness.



## Additional Data Analytics & Evaluation Core Activities

- *UConn Family Medicine residency program*: Assisted with the evidence-based medicine module. Co-taught statistical modules (meta-analysis; tests and treatments; measurement and analytics). Assisted residents and faculty with research projects (research design and statistical advice and input).
- *UConn Health Public Health Program*: Conducted two semester independent study courses with a public health PhD student on 'Path analysis and causal modeling' and 'Structural equation and causal modeling'.
- *UConn Faculty Technical Assistance*: Provided manuscript publication advice and statistical support to: Dr. Audrey Chapman (CICATS pilot project) to adapt spiritual tools for use with general and cancer patients; Dr. Lisa Barry PI (NIH funded project) on causal ordering of health outcomes; and Dr. Mohammad Khan PI (NSF funded project) on dynamic change analyses.

## **Additional Data Analytics & Evaluation Core Activities (cont.)**

- *UConn Cancer Center Needs Assessment Support:* Assisting the UConn Health Cancer Committee in building an online survey and data collection tools for patients and providers (Spring 2018-2019).
- *Supporting Connecticut's Community Health Centers:* Community Health Center/Weitzman Institute (WI, Middletown, CT). Processed and analyzed patient data from various internal quality improvement or research projects. Taught statistics module for research assistants. Formulated the research design and analytic plan for several grant proposals including a most recent AHRQ proposal on shared decision-making measurement. Analyzed data for peer-reviewed manuscripts including a paper on eConsult savings for *Health Affairs*.

**The Research, Training & Leadership Development Core (Research Core)** has five strategic priorities: 1) Identify new funding opportunities; 2) ensure scientific fidelity; 3) initiate and monitor IRB/ Human subjects applications; 4) support grant and contract submissions; and 5) plan implement, and coordinate structured/ unstructured opportunities for health equity leadership development.

## Research Core Initiatives

### **HDI Internship Program**

Over the course of FY'18, six students participated in unpaid internship experiences at HDI with four HDI mentoring preceptors.

Each student and preceptor created a learning agreement containing learning objectives and a detailed work plan. As part of their training, students are requested to meet three deliverables (e.g., fact sheet, presentation, data entry on a particular project, etc.). At the mid-point of the student's experience, the program manager formally meets with the student to share the progress on the student's learning experiences. At the end of the internship, the student and preceptor complete an evaluation.

### **Streamlining IRB protocols**

HDI is generating and improving existing internal protocols for applying and monitoring IRB and human subjects' application process.

## HDI Projects - Currently Funded

**NIH**, \$145,223

PI: Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH

Neighborhoods, daily stress, Affect Regulation, Black Male, Substance use

**CT Health Foundation**, \$129,946

PI: Victor G. Villagra, MD, FACP

Equal Coverage to Care Coalition

**CHC Inc.**, \$104,468

PI: Victor G. Villagra, MD, FACP

Analytical Support Services

**CT Health Foundation**, \$25,000

PI: Victor G. Villagra, MD, FACP

Equal Coverage to Care Coalition

**CHC Inc.**, \$30,000

PI: Victor G. Villagra, MD, FACP

Clinical Community Integration Program

**CHCACT**, \$5,400

PI: Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH & Co-PI: Denise Smith, CHW, PN, SFC

Stitch AmeriCorps Training & Technical Assistance

## HDI Projects - New Funding Awards

**CHCACT**, \$3,000

PI: Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH & Co-PI: Denise Smith, CHW, PN, SFC

Stitch AmeriCorps Training & Technical Assistance

## HDI Projects - New Funding Awards (cont.)

### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, \$20,000**

Awarded to Denise Smith

PI: Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH & Co-PI: Denise Smith, CHW, PN, SFC  
Culture of Health Leaders Program

### **CICATS Core Interest Group (CIG), \$15,000**

Obtained pilot funding from the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science at UConn with PI, Dr. Helen Wu, MAPCOR (Patient Centered Outcomes Research) CIG (Core Interest group), representing CICATS Health Disparities CIG. Workshops will be planned for UConn and regional researchers, on causality modern methods.

## HDI Projects– Proposals Submitted But Not Funded

**Donaghue Foundation- Greater Value Portfolio**, up to \$400,000 for 2 years Submitted a Letter of Intent but did not follow to the next phase

## HDI Projects - Grant Application Under Review

### **Aetna Foundation – Cultivating Healthy Communities Program, \$100,000**

PI: Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH

Mapping Youth-led Community Safety in Hartford Neighborhoods: An Assets-Focused Approach.

In April 2018, HDI submitted a stage 1 application to the Aetna Foundation in April 2018 and was accepted to submit a stage 2 application. HDI will receive a notification of Stage 2 decision on July 27, 2018. The project would begin in October 2018 for eighteen months.



# PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

HDI faculty and staff have written papers and presented at conferences and workshops on local and national platforms as listed below.

## **Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH**

(\*Denotes student/trainee)

### Publications

1. Taggart T.T.\*, **Powell, W.**, Gottfredson, N., Ennett, S., Eng, E., Chatters L.M. (In Press). A person-centered approach to the study of Black adolescent religiosity, racial identity, and sexual initiation. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.
2. Grodensky, C. A., Rosen, D. L., Blue, C. M., Miller, A. R., Bradley-Bull, S., **Powell, W. A.**, & Wohl, D. A. (2018). Medicaid Enrollment among Prison Inmates in a Non-expansion State: Exploring Predisposing, Enabling, and Need Factors Related to Enrollment Pre-incarceration and Post-Release. *Journal of Urban Health*, 1-13.
3. Fleming, P.J.\*, Barrington, C., **Powell, W.**, Gottert, A., Lerebours, L., Donastorg, Y., Brito, M.O. (2018). The association between men's concern about demonstrating masculine characteristics and their sexual risk behaviors: Findings from the Dominican Republic. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 47 (2), 507-515.
4. Taggart, T., Gottfredson, N., **Powell, W.**, Ennett, S., Chatters, L. M., Carter-Edwards, L., & Eng, E. (2018). The Role of Religious Socialization and Religiosity in African American and Caribbean Black Adolescents' Sexual Initiation. *Journal of religion and health*, 1-16.
5. Rosen D.L., Grodensky C.A., Miller A.R., Golin C.E., Domino M.E., **Powell W.**, & Wohl D.A. (2017). Implementing a prison Medicaid enrollment program for inmates with a community hospitalization. *Journal of Urban Health*, 1, 1-10.

## **Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH (cont.)**

(\*Denotes student/trainee)

### Publications

6. Chae DH, **Powell, W.**, Smith-Bynum M.A., Nuru-Jeter A.M., Seaton E.K., Forman T., Turpin R., Sellers R. (2017). The Role of Racial Identity and Implicit Racial Bias in Self-Reported Racial Discrimination: Implications for Depression Among African American Men. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 43(8), 789-812.
7. **Powell, W.**, Banks, K.H., Mattis, J.S. (2017). Buried hatchets, marked locations: Forgiveness, everyday racial discrimination, and African-American men's depressive symptomatology. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(6), 646-662.
8. Richmond, J.\*, **Powell, W.**, Maurer, M., Mangrum, M., Gold, M., Pathak-Sen, E., Yang, M., Carman, K.L. (2017). Public mistrust of the U.S. health care system's profit motives: Implications for improving value in health care. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 32 (12), 1396-1402.
9. Adimora, A.A., Schoenbach, V.J., Cates, J., Cope, A.B., Ramirez, C., Agans, R., **Powell, W.**, & Fortune, T. (2017). Changing attitudes about concurrency: Results of a radio campaign. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 4, 330-346.
10. Adams, L.B.\*, Richmond, J.\*, Corbie-Smith, G. & **Powell, W.** (2017). Medical Mistrust and Colorectal Cancer Screening among African Americans: a systematic review. *Journal of Community Health*, 5, 1044-1061.
11. Mattis, J.S., **Powell, W.**, Grayman, N.A., Murray, Y., Cole-Lewis, Y., Goodwill, J. (2017). What would I know about mercy? Faith, Forgiveness, and Optimistic Expectancies among African Americans. *Race and Social Problem*, 9 (1), 42-52.

## Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH (cont.)

(\*Denotes student/trainee)

### Presentations

1. Adams, L.B.\*, Alex Lightfoot, EdD, Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc, Carol Golin, MD, Nisha Gottfredson, PhD, **Powell, W.** (2018, June). Stakeholders Perceptions of Black Men's Depression and Health Care Engagement: A Concept Mapping Approach. Paper presented at the 2018 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle WA.
2. Richmond, J.S.\*, Baxter, S.\*, **Powell, W.** (2018, June). Psychosocial Correlates of Frequent Emergency Room Use Among Black Men. Paper presented at the 2018 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle WA.
3. **Powell, W.**, Adams\*, L.B., Richmond, J.\*, Baxter, S.\*, Eden, T.\*, Thomas, S\*. (2017, November). Comparison of directly observed neighborhood violence, alcohol, and other drug (VAOD) activity and U.S. census data: Implications for substance abuse research and interventions among emerging adult Black Men. Poster presented at the 145th Annual American Public Health Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
4. Adams, L.B.\*, **Powell, W.**, Richmond, J., Baxter, S., Eden, T., Thomas, S. (2017, November). Using participatory methods to conceptualize pathways between neighborhood disadvantage and substance use among Black men in Durham, NC: Findings from a concept mapping study. Paper presented Poster presented at the 145th Annual American Public Health Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
5. Adams\*, L.B., Richmond, J.\*, Hoggard, L.\*, Eden, T.\*, **Powell, W.** (2017, November). Adaptation and implementation of a smartphone application to assess neighborhood violence, alcohol and drug exposure among young adult African American men. Poster presented at the 145th Annual American Public Health Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

## **Emil Coman, PhD**

### Publications

1. **Coman E.N.** Wu. H., Z. (2018). Examining Differential Resilience Mechanisms by Comparing 'Tipping Points' of the Effects of Neighborhood Conditions on Anxiety by Race/Ethnicity Healthcare, special issue on Health Effects of Race, Gender, Class, and Place: Complexities and Heterogeneities
2. Mogro-Wilson, C., Drake, A., **Coman, E.**, Sanghavi, T., Martin-Peele, M., & Fifield, J. (2018). Increasing condom usage for African-American and Hispanic young fathers in a community based intervention. *Ethnicity & Health*, 1-12.

### Presentations

1. **Coman, E. N.**, Wilson, C., Melville, A., & Fifield, J. (2018). Modeling health disparities with a unique combinations of 1-on-1 matching and latent difference and latent change scores. Paper presented at the Modern Modeling Methods (M3) Conference, U. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 22-23.
2. **Coman, E. N.**, Wu. H., Assari, S. (2018). A methodical review of the causal role of socioeconomic determinants of health disparities. Paper presented at the Modern Modeling Methods (M3) Conference, U. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 22-23.

## **Denise Octavia Smith, MBA, CHW, PN, SFC**

### Presentations

1. **Smith. D.O.** (2017 October). Health Insurance Literacy in Connecticut: Measuring Practical Understanding Among Diverse Consumers with Private Insurance in the Access Health CT Marketplace. Oral presentation for the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) and Health Literacy Annual Research Conference (HARC), Baltimore, MD.
2. **Smith. D.O.** (2017 October). Leveraging Choosing Wisely as a Tool for Achieving Health Equity Summit. Panel presentation for The Donaghue Foundation, Hartford, CT.
3. **Smith. D.O.** (2018 May). Achieving a Culture of Health Through Health Insurance Literacy Promotion. Oral presentation for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Washington, D.C.
4. Rand. K. **Smith. D.O.**, Yedlin. N. (2018 June). Leveraging Choosing Wisely as a Tool for Achieving Health Equity. Oral presentation for the Qualidigm Better Health Conference, Hartford, CT.

## HDI National Media Appearances

**American Psychological Association released the “Health Disparities in Racial/ Ethnic and Sexual Minority Boys and Men” report led by Dr. Wizdom Powell, Chair of their Working Group on Health Disparities in Boys and Men. As a result, Dr.Powell was interviewed by the following national media outlets.**

- Huffington Post “Black Men Have Shorter Lives than White Men. Here’s How We Can Change That”, 6/28/2018 [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/black-men-have-shorter-lives-than-white-men-heres-how-we-can-change-that\\_us\\_5b292a9ee4b0a4dc99214546](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/black-men-have-shorter-lives-than-white-men-heres-how-we-can-change-that_us_5b292a9ee4b0a4dc99214546)
- The Tennessee Tribune “Vanderbilt Study on the Health of Minority Men and Boys”, 6/28/2018 <http://tntribune.com/uncategorized/vanderbilt-study-on-the-health-of-minority-men-and-boys/>
- UConn Today “Racial, Ethnic, and Sexual Minority Males among Unhealthiest People in U.S., Report Finds”, 6/18/2018 <https://today.uconn.edu/2018/06/racial-ethnic-sexual-minority-males-among-unhealthiest-people-u-s-report-finds/>

**In national news articles and radio, Dr. Wizdom Powell shares her expertise in mental health, healthcare seeking, stigma, health and economic disparities, and dismantles the single story for boys and men of color.**

- Refinery29 “Jay Z is the Mental Health Role Model Men Need”, 1/30/2018 <https://www.refinery29.com/2018/01/189292/jay-z-interview-mental-health-masculinity-therapy>
- Vox “My Wife had a Baby, and I Started Thinking about Suicide. A psychiatrist’s Diagnosis Surprised Me”, 10/4/2017 <https://www.vox.com/first-person/2017/10/3/16411378/male-post-partum-depression-mental-health>

**In national news articles and radio, Dr. Wizdom Powell shares her expertise in mental health, healthcare seeking, stigma, health and economic disparities, and dismantles the single story for boys and men of color. (cont.)**

- NPR, WSHU CT Public Radio “Why It’s So Hard to Reach Males in Need of Mental Healthcare”, 2/27/2018  
<http://wshu.org/post/why-its-so-hard-reach-males-need-mental-healthcare#stream/0>
- WUNC NC Public Radio “Ten Years After the Great Recession, How does NC Fare”, 1/11/2018  
<http://wunc.org/post/ten-years-after-great-recession-how-does-nc-fare#stream/0>

## UConn Media Appearances

**Dr. Wizdom Powell introduces her research on neighborhoods, daily stress, and substance abuse risk among young adult black males as well as her goals for HDI**

- UConn Today “Meet the Researcher: Wizdom Powell, UConn Health Disparities Institute”, 6/29/2018  
<https://today.uconn.edu/school-stories/meet-researcher-wizdom-powell-uconn-health-disparities-institute/>
- UConn Innovation Portal “Meet the Researcher: Wizdom Powell, a Committed and Passionate Leader”, 2/2018  
<https://innovation.uconn.edu/news/292/Meet%20the%20Researcher%3A%20Wizdom%20Powell%2C%20a%20Committed%20and%20Passionate%20Leader>

## **HDI Affiliate Faculty Program**

The HDI affiliate faculty program engages multi-disciplinary researchers from the UConn community for collaborative research, programs, projects and initiatives focused on health disparities. As an affiliate member, faculty have the opportunity to:

- Compete for HDI's pilot program funding
- Participate in career development and training opportunities
- Receive early-career mentorship
- Attend community and stakeholder networking events
- Be featured on HDI's social media and in other promotional materials

## **Pre-doctoral Health Equity Leadership Development Program**

Dr. Wizdom Powell is developing a curriculum for a new health equity leadership program for UCONN pre-doctoral students. This program will be anchored by a seminar, research project, and service learning obligation. Recruitment for this program will begin in the 2018-2019 academic year.

## **Expanding upon the HDI Internship Program**

We have had enormous success in recruiting interns to HDI. As a result, we will be expanding the HDI internship program in 2019. This expanded program will provide additional opportunities for students to rotate through HDI's cores. For example, student's may spend one semester supporting our data analytics and evaluation core and rotating to our collaborations, community engagement, and technical assistance core. We will also be providing more structured learning and networking opportunities.

## **NIH R01**

PI: Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH

HDI is preparing an R01 application to the National Institutes for the October 2018 grant cycle. This R01 builds on the current K01 application and extends the work to focus explicitly on the role of neighborhoods in catalyzing trauma symptomatology, and substance use in young adult Black and Hispanic/Latino men.

## **Additional funding opportunities**

As part of identifying new funding opportunities for increasing HDI's sustainability, HDI will continue its efforts to diversify our funding streams. HDI will submit 1-2 NIH and 2 foundation applications for funding. We will also continue to secure contracts from local and state-level agencies.





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