

# SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

## Introduction

*CHET Director, Nancy Schoenberg*

As another academic year draws to a close, we pause to reflect on the many positive transformations in our lives. This Spring's newsletter's theme, "Celebrating our Accomplishments," is inspired by the many accolades and achievements that collectively alter our shared future. In this newsletter, we will share many of these accomplishments. CHET has received our first substantial research training endowment from Aetna Better Health of Kentucky, which will allow us to support our crucial training mission for years to come. Obtaining a Research Challenge Trust Fund will enable future generations to accelerate our efforts to achieve health equity. CHET faculty and students' participation in national and regional conferences speaks to the impact that we have on the production and distribution of critical knowledge. A new College of Medicine Alliance, co-led by Primary Faculty member Dr. Carolyn Lauckner, will foster growth and innovation in mobile health research. Our impressive roster of new competitive research grants reflects the talents and persistence of CHET faculty, staff, and students. We also highlight the numerous CHET faculty and trainees who have received awards in recognition of their outstanding service and research efforts, and we place a well-deserved spotlight on three outstanding recipients of CHET's Changemaker Awards. Finally, we also are excited to celebrate with our trainees who are receiving degrees and who will undoubtedly continue to strive toward achieving health equity within their communities.

As always, we are grateful to you, our CHET community, for your support, engagement, and your efforts to improve the health of all people. We are excited to see the transformative effect of our growing array of new accomplishments in the next academic year!



### NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

CHET Receives Health Equity Training Endowment

Pilot Funding Opportunities

Faculty, Staff, and Trainee Updates

CHET Trainees Excel at UNITE Research Showcase

CHET Changemaker and JIT Awardees

Announcing the mHealth Application Modernization & Mobilization Alliance (MAMMA)

2023 CHET Elevating Equity Speaker Series: Dr. Vanessa Northington Gamble

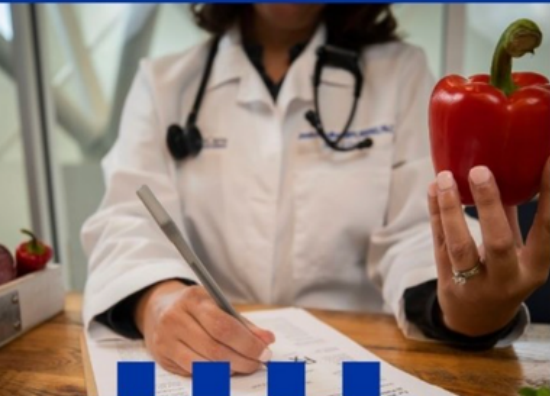
Celebrating Our Recent Graduates

## CHET RECEIVES HEALTH EQUITY TRAINING ENDOWMENT

We are pleased to announce that CHET received a \$100,000 gift from the Aetna Better Health of Kentucky, ASC to establish the CHET Training Program Support Endowed Fund. The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees (BOT) also recently approved Research Challenge Trust Fund (RCTF) funding to match 50% of this gift, resulting in a total of \$150,000 in the CHET Training Support Endowed Fund.

## CHET AND THE FOOD AS HEALTH ALLIANCE PARTNER TO PROVIDE PILOT FUNDING

### CALL FOR PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS



#### TOPICAL FOCUS

Pilot funding will be made available to support meritorious projects that focus on identifying, reducing and/or eliminating health disparities. CHET will fund one general health equity pilot, and the Food as Health Alliance will fund two awards.

All applications must address how the pilot project will (1) directly contribute to achieving health equity for a vulnerable population and (2) obtain critical data to support an extramural grant submission that will promote health equity.



#### GRANT SPECIFICATIONS

- Maximum \$25,000
- 3 proposals may be funded

#### DEADLINE

June 9, 2023

#### MORE INFORMATION



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY.](#)

# Faculty, Staff, and Trainee Updates

## **Dr. Nancy Schoenberg (CHET Director):**

- Received CCTS mentorship recognition award at UK's 2023 CCTS Spring Conference
- Invited to be Keynote Speaker at the American Academy of Health Behavior Conference held in San Francisco, CA
  - Title of talk: "Advancing health equity among rural residents through translational health behavior research"



## **Dr. Carrie Oser (CHET Associate Director):**

- Received the inaugural 2023 A&S Outstanding Faculty Peer Mentoring Award
- Recently published an article entitled, "Barriers and facilitators to the use of medication for opioid use disorder within the criminal justice system: Perspectives from clinicians" in *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment*

## **Dr. Laurie McClouth (CHET Primary Faculty):**

- Recently published article entitled, "Influence of depression on breast cancer treatment and survival: A Kentucky population-based study" in *Cancer*
- Accepted into the University of Colorado's Adult & Child Center for Outcomes Research & Delivery Science Dissemination and Implementation Science Graduate Certificate Program
- Mentee Accomplishments:
  - Thailandria Daniels, a third-year medical student and College of Medicine Behavioral Science White Coats for Black Lives Fellow recently presented her fellowship research project at the UK Annual Clinical and Translational Science Conference and at the national meeting of the Student National Medical Association.
  - Vilma Bursac, a PhD student in UK Health Services Research and Senior Research Associate with Dr. McClouth in CHET, was among three students selected to give an oral presentation at the Markey Cancer Center Annual Research Day.



## **Dr. Elizabeth Rhodus (CHET Primary Faculty):**

- Received UNITE General Pilot Grant funding for project entitled, "Empowering Men to Promote Wellness and Racial Health Equity: A Pilot Project to Assess Feasibility of Health Campaigns in Community Organizations to Improve Health Equity among Aging African Americans"
- Dr. Rhodus will serve as PI and Yolanda Jackson, CHET GRA, will serve as Co-I.
  - [Click here to read about the project's successful kick-off event.](#)



# Faculty, Staff, and Trainee Updates (cont.)

## **Dr. Brittany Smalls (CHET Core Faculty):**

- Recently published an editorial entitled, "Improving Health and Well-Being in Aging Rural America Through the Social Determinants Framework" in *The Journals of Gerontology* (co-authors include Dr. Schoenberg, CHET Director and Dr. Rhodus, CHET Primary Faculty)
- Received R01 from NIDDK to fund project entitled "Older Adults Using Social Support to Improve Self-Care (OASIS): Adaption, Implementation, and Feasibility of Peer Support for Older Adults with T2DM in Appalachia" (Dr. Kruse-Diehr, CHET Core Faculty is a collaborator)
- Recipient of Dr. Claire Louise Caudill Professorship in Family Medicine, which will help support Dr. Smalls' research endeavors. The professorship was created by Dr. Caudill to support faculty with outstanding contributions to research and education in the field of Family Medicine. Received CCTS mentorship



## **Dr. Kathy Sheppard-Jones (CHET Core Faculty):**

- Recently published an article entitled, "Providing quality employment services to people living with asthma in the vocational rehabilitation program: A model for meeting the needs of an emerging clientele" in *Work*
- Recently published article entitled, "A 'win-win' perspective on workplace accommodations: RETAIN Kentucky's self-advocacy guide to promote successful return to work and stay at work outcomes for workers with disabilities" in *Work*
- Member of team awarded the UK 2023 Sarah Bennett Holmes Team Award for Inclusive Job Descriptions for identifying a barrier to inclusive hiring wherein job descriptions use language limiting diverse candidates including women from applying for jobs, recognizing the marginalization of women with disabilities in the recruitment and retention process, and developing sample language to make the recruiting process more likely to connect with a broader applicant audience

## **Michelle Roberts (CHET GRA):**

- Awarded first place for poster entitled "'Filling the Gaps': Understanding Post-Hospitalization Care and Acquired Disability in Appalachian Kentucky" at the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health's Appalachian Research Day (Co-author includes Dr. Schoenberg, CHET Director)
- Awarded the UK Department of Anthropology's Margaret Lantis Award for Excellence in Research by a graduate student
- Led paper presentation entitled, "Understanding Experiences of Post-Hospitalization Care in Appalachian Kentucky" at 2023 Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Cincinnati, OH



# Faculty, Staff, and Trainee Updates (cont.)



**Jimmy Robinson (CHET GRA):**

- Received James S. Brown Graduate Student Award from UK's Appalachian Center to support research project entitled, "Taking the Rural with You: Rural Artists in the City"
- Presented poster entitled, "The Urbanormative Discipline of Rural Bodies" at the 2023 Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA

**Yolanda Jackson (CHET GRA):**

- Awarded the College of Communication and Information Carozza Graduate Fund for Excellence in Health Communication Award



## CHET TRAINEES EXCEL AT UNITE RESEARCH SHOWCASE

**Congratulations to Princess Agbozo (SPARKler), Fidelis Sesenu (CHET GRA), and Yolanda Jackson (CHET GRA) (pictured from left to right) for placing in the UNITE Research Showcase poster competition! Yolanda and Fidelis received first and third place, respectively, in the graduate competition. Princess received second place in the undergraduate competition.**



# CHET Changemaker Awardees

The purpose of the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) Equity Changemaker Awards is to recognize the efforts of University of Kentucky graduate students, professional students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty in advancing health equity through research and training. Annual awards are made to individuals whose research seeks to understand health disparities and inequities and whose mentorship has contributed to the next generation of health equity scholars. This year, **Dr. Burris** and **Dr. Oser** received faculty awards, and **Yolanda Jackson** received the award for Graduate Students, Professional Students, or Postdoctoral Scholars.



**Yolanda Jackson**, MS, RD, LD, is a 3rd year PhD student in the College of Communication and Information at the University of Kentucky pursuing a PhD in Health Communication. She is also a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). Yolanda earned a B.S. in Dietetics and a M.S. in Dietetic Administration from the University of Kentucky and is a Registered Dietitian licensed by the state of Kentucky. Her area of research focuses on reducing health disparities in marginalized and minoritized individuals using a community-based research approach. Yolanda aims to reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases in this population using health campaigns and health messages.



**Jessica L. Burris**, PhD, earned a bachelor's degrees in psychology and theology from Marquette University and a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Burris' research program explores how a new cancer diagnosis can spur positive changes in one's quality of life and health behaviors. A strong proponent of proactive outreach and equitable healthcare delivery, Dr. Burris seeks to understand and mitigate barriers to smoking cessation, health promotion, and psychological wellbeing in the context of US rural cancer survivorship.



**Carrie Oser**, PhD, is the Di Silvestro Endowed Professor in the Department of Sociology, a University Research Professor, Associate Director of the Center for Health Equity Transformation, and a faculty affiliate of the Center on Drug & Alcohol Research at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Oser is passionate about conducting rigorous high-impact research to improve the lives of individuals with substance use disorders, especially among under-represented populations. She has received funding as Principal Investigator for almost two decades from the National Institutes of Health and has published over 120 peer-reviewed papers. Dr. Oser is dedicated to training the next generation of scholars, having mentored over 50 graduate students and early-career faculty.

## CHET JUST-IN-TIME (JIT) GRANT AWARDEE

**Congratulations to Dr. Mairead Moloney on receiving a CHET Just-in-Time (JIT) grant to support presentation of her project, "Too tired to sleep: A social-ecological exploration of insomnia in Appalachian women." This qualitative study is one of the first to better understand the insomnia experiences of Appalachian women, and to frame interview themes within the context of Grandner's social-ecological model of sleep. The use of this framework allows for the illumination of social processes and social structures that contribute to experiences of sleeplessness among Appalachian women.**



## Dr. Carolyn Lauckner, CHET Primary Faculty Member, Co-Leads New College of Medicine Alliance

Drs. Carolyn and Mikhail Koffarnus are excited to announce a new UK College of Medicine Alliance focused on mobile health, called the mHealth Application Modernization & Mobilization Alliance (MAMMA). The goal of the Alliance is to mobilize the existing strengths of UK researchers to modernize and deploy mHealth applications in cancer, addiction, chronic disease prevention and management, and other health research.



Alliance membership is open to anyone who is interested in mHealth research. **If you would like to join the alliance and receive emails about upcoming meetings and opportunities, please complete this short Qualtrics form:**

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2f6v72WxtXBkqIm](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2f6v72WxtXBkqIm)

The Alliance has also announced their first round of pilot funding, which will support up to 3 meritorious projects (\$25,000 limit) that focus on developing and testing mobile health interventions. Health equity related projects are especially encouraged. The application deadline is June 9th, 2023. For more information, visit: [https://medicine.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/MAMMA\\_RFA\\_0510.pdf](https://medicine.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/MAMMA_RFA_0510.pdf)

## 2023 CHET Elevating Equity Speaker Series: Dr. Vanessa Northington Gamble

On March 27th, CHET hosted Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD, an internationally recognized expert on the history of American medicine, racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, public health ethics, and bioethics. As part of her visit, she participated in a discussion with Nikki Brown, PhD, Associate Professor of American and African American History in the College of Arts & Sciences entitled "Elevating the Stories of Black Women: Dr. Virginia Alexander." This event, which was held at the Lexington Public Library, was part of the 2022-2023 University of Kentucky CHET Elevating Equity Speaker Series, co-sponsored by Anthem BlueCross and BlueShield Medicaid, with additional support from the Gaines Center for the Humanities, and the Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies.



# Congratulations to our Recent Graduates!



**Ariel Arthur**, CHET Manager and DEI Coordinator  
**Master of Public Health (MPH)** (Health, Behavior, & Society concentration)  
**University of Kentucky**



**Meron Lemma**, SPARKler  
**Bachelor of Public Health**, Public Health and Environmental Sustainability Studies  
**University of Kentucky**



**Michael McLeod**, SPARKler  
**Bachelor of Science in Biology**  
**Kentucky State University**

## **Follow CHET on social media!**

If you are not already doing so, please consider following CHET on social media to stay up-to-date on all things health equity:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/UKYCHET>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/CHET\\_UKY](https://twitter.com/CHET_UKY)

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/ukychet/>

*"The Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), Lexington Kentucky, is located on the original homeland of diverse Native peoples who arrived over 10,000 years ago. The most recent among them were the Shawnee. Today, Kentucky is still home to over 25,000 Native people representing scores of tribal groups. CHET recognizes the injustices Native peoples have endured. Through this statement, we hope to begin the long process of healing."*