

## Center for Health Equity Transformation

*"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."*

[Visit our Website](#)

## CHET's Weekly Communication Digest

### CHET Welcomes New Core Faculty Members

CHET is pleased to welcome four new Core Faculty members, who represent a diverse array of disciplinary backgrounds, research expertise, and career levels. All of these stellar faculty members are committed to advancing our mission to achieve health equity for all. You can read about each faculty member below.

Welcome Drs. Hull, Keck, Linares, and Whitehurst!



**Pamela Hull, PhD**, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science in the UK College of Medicine, is a medical sociologist with over 15 years of experience in conducting community-engaged research with a focus on reducing health disparities among African American, Hispanic, and low-income populations, in collaboration with community partners. Her research focuses on the implementation of evidence-based practices for cancer prevention and control, including HPV vaccination and obesity prevention, using implementation science and technology-based applications. Dr. Hull serves as Associate Director of Population Science and Community Impact for the UK Markey Cancer Center, where she leads Markey's community outreach and engagement efforts through the Community Impact Office functions, and she oversees

MCC's population science research agenda and resources.

**James W Keck, MD, MPH**, is an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine and active primary care physician. As a translational clinician researcher, he works to improve the health of communities facing health disparities, including past or current projects in Alaska Native villages, Appalachian Kentucky, and Sub-Saharan Africa. His expertise includes infectious disease epidemiology and chronic disease prevention, with a focus on remote and rural populations. An advocate for team science, Dr. Keck enjoys building transdisciplinary research teams and forging partnerships with community partners, and both are integral to his work as the Principal Investigator of CDC- and NIH-funded COVID-19 projects focused on protecting vulnerable populations.





**Ana Maria Linares, DNS, RN, IBCLC**, is an Associate Professor of Nursing in the College of Nursing. Dr. Linares has a program of research on health disparities with an emphasis on the promotion of breastfeeding that has been funded by intramural and extramural grant awards. She is conducting several studies on breastfeeding in KY, including a randomized controlled trial among Hispanic women and their family support person to assess the effectiveness of

an innovative and community-based family-centered intervention that seeks to enhance exclusive breastfeeding. Additionally, she is involved in global health research leading a multisite international study to define the socio-cultural determinants of exclusive breastfeeding in Latino American countries. Dr. Linares is the recipient of numerous awards including a 2019 Fulbright Scholar award to study the determinants of iron deficiency anemia in Peruvian children and its association with infant feeding practices. She also serves as a member of the Culture, Respect, Assess/Affirm, Sensitivity, and Self-awareness, and Humility (CRASH) Committee, United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), is a member of the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) Research Team, and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Human Lactation.

**Lauren Whitehurst, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Whitehurst's research seeks to address, "What makes a night of sleep "good"? Staying asleep the whole night? Falling asleep once your head hits the pillow? Waking up refreshed and ready for your day? All the above?" Psychological science is still grappling with the answers to this question, yet we do know that a period of sleep helps us think, learn and remember better. Additionally, specific neural changes during sleep, characterized with electroencephalography (EEG), support human cognitive function. Dr. Whitehurst explores how these EEG features and specific changes in our body (i.e. autonomic nervous system) 1) help us define "good" sleep and 2) support cognition. She also examines how stress-sleep interactions impact cognitive function and the importance of sleep to the development of accelerated or pathological cognitive decline (e.g. dementia/ Alzheimer's disease). She is particularly interested in how the lack of access to restorative sleep can play a role in creating or exacerbating disparities in cognitive health for communities historically underserved by science and medicine in the US.



## Faculty Highlight Video - Dr. Corrine Williams

We're happy to include the work of CHET Core Faculty member Corrine Williams, ScD in the next installment of our video highlight series. Click the link below to learn about her work and commitment to health equity.



## CHET Social Media Accounts

If you haven't already, please Like and follow our Facebook and Twitter accounts:

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

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

We frequently post information about important health equity topics, upcoming events, and the outstanding work of our many CHET scholars.

If you have anything you would like us to promote on our social media pages, please reach out to us at [chet@uky.edu](mailto:chet@uky.edu).

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## Collaboration Column

This weekly column provides space for any of our CHET affiliates to seek out involvement of others. We request that contributions be no more than 3 sentences and include contact information.

If considered appropriate, contributions sent to [chet@uky.edu](mailto:chet@uky.edu) by Thursday will be included in CHET's Friday digest. Contributions will be run twice, unless requested otherwise.

For more information, please contact the Communication Subcommittee via [chet@uky.edu](mailto:chet@uky.edu)

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## Biostatistics and Research Design Core

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9GlFBA9n9aPOFlb](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GlFBA9n9aPOFlb)

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## CHET Student and Trainee Listserv

Please encourage your students and trainees to join our listserv here: [bit.ly/joinchet](http://bit.ly/joinchet)