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# 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](#)

## Winter 2023 Newsletter

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### Introduction from CHET Primary Faculty Member, Dr. Elizabeth Rhodus

To the CHET community,

Happy New Year! We are excited to begin another year of scholarship, training, and service here at the Center for Health Equity Transformation. In fact, we are excited to announce the creation of a new **Community Engagement** Subcommittee.

Goals of this new subcommittee are to increase collaborations among community partners, UK faculty, staff, and students aimed to improve health equity. Our hope is to develop a bridge between the wonderful enterprise of the University and communities who are interested in research. The mission of this committee is to fuse service, scholarship, and training, all of which are core values of CHET.



While we are in the developing stages, we would love input from CHET affiliates on ideas, needs, or suggestions for research among diverse communities. As the subcommittee chair, I welcome your feedback on any ideas or thoughts for this subcommittee. You can reach me at [Elizabeth.Rhodus@uky.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Rhodus@uky.edu).

Please stay tuned for more information as we launch new initiatives and build community collaborations.

We look forward to an engaging year ahead!

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Rhodus

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## CHET Welcomes New SPARK Cohort

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CHET is pleased to welcome six new SPARKlers who represent a diverse array of disciplines and research interests. All of these stellar students are committed to advancing our mission to achieve health equity for all.

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**Carey Beth Smith:** Sophomore at UK. Studying Human Health Sciences on a pre-med track



**Segen Mussie:** Junior at Kentucky State University. Studying Biology Pre-Professional with minors in Mass Communication and Sociology.



**Jade Forest:** Junior at UK. Studying Public Health with a minor in Health Promotions.



**Maddie Duff:** Sophomore at UK's Lewis Honors College. Studying Neuroscience with a minor in Appalachian Studies.



**Ellis Jackson:** Class of 2025, Studying Pre-Professional Biology at Kentucky State University.



**Treasure Ebikwo:** Junior at UK in the College of Arts and Sciences. Studying Health, Society, and Populations.

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## CHET Health Equity and Food As Health Pilot Grant RFA

Pilot funding will be made available to support meritorious projects that focus on identifying, reducing and/or eliminating health disparities. **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.** This year we will fund two of these pilot studies in conjunction with the Food as Health Alliance in partnership with the Markey Cancer Center, and OVPR's Diabetes and Obesity Research Priority Area.

Applications are due **April 1st, 2023.**

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

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## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE CHET Equity Changemaker Awards

The Center for Health Equity Transformation is honored to recognize faculty and trainees with the annual Changemaker Awards. Awards will be provided to:

- A **faculty member** whose health equity research has contributed to the elimination of health inequities among marginalized and oppressed groups, and whose mentorship has improved diversity, equity, and inclusion within the next generation of health equity scholars
- A **trainee (graduate or professional students or post-doctoral scholars)** who is training in the health equity field and whose research works to eliminate health inequities among marginalized and oppressed groups.

**Deadline: March 3, 2023 at 11:59pm**

For more information and to access the application, visit:  
<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/chet/changemaker-awards>

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

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### Faculty, Staff, and Trainee Updates



**Dr. Ana Maria Linares**, CHET Core Faculty Member and Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, was recently funded through a UNITE General Pilot Grant to conduct the study entitled "Familismo and Social Determinants of Health: Critical components of Exclusive Breastfeeding Disparities in Hispanic mothers." The study has a mixed-method approach to assess the interconnection of Familismo, ethnic identity, and other SDOH, to evaluate whether these affect the intention of exclusive

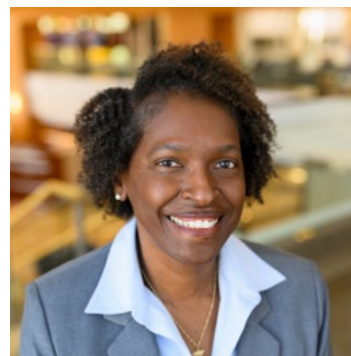
breastfeeding and the infant feeding method at 1-month after birth in Latinx mother/infant dyads.

Dr. Linares also was awarded a UNITE/College of Social Work RCT Pilot Grant to conduct the study entitled ""Leveraging Cultural Health Beliefs and Actions to Improve Latinx Family Wellness."

**Dr. Lovoria B. Williams**, CHET Core Faculty Member and Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, is an editor for a forthcoming book entitled *Black Health in the South*. The book spans a number of topics related to the social determinants of health for African Americans in the southern United States, from "culturally appropriate healthcare to faith-based interventions and the role of research networks in addressing disparities." *Black Health in the South* is the "first edited collection to focus on African Americans in the South both as a whole and as a distinct population."

The release date for the book is March 21, 2023. In addition to releasing the printed book, the publisher has arranged for an audiobook to be released by Recorded Books, a leading audio book company.

[Click here to learn more and preorder the book.](#)



**Dr. Carolyn Lauckner**, CHET Primary Faculty Member, was recently named co-Chair of a new College of Medicine Alliance, along with Dr. Mikhail Koffarnus of the Dept. of Family and Community Medicine. This new Alliance, called mHealth Application Modernization and Mobilization Alliance (MAMMA), will work to promote mobile health research across the College of Medicine by developing a modular mHealth app for use by UK investigators, providing pilot funds to support mHealth research, and encouraging collaboration on innovative mHealth projects. The Alliance will hold monthly meetings to provide education and training on mHealth topics, foster the development of collaborative project proposals, and encourage networking among Alliance members. Dates and times of

upcoming meetings are still being determined. If you are interested in joining MAMMA, please fill out the following short Qualtrics form:

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

**Dr. Nancy Schoenberg**, CHET Director and Professor in the College of Medicine, has been selected to serve as a mentor for The Native Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (NAD RCMAR) at Washington State University. The NAD RCMAR aims to better understand, intervene on, and mitigate the Alzheimer's disease health disparities experienced by American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. NAD RCMAR funds social and behavioral pilot studies that advance the field through its Research Education Program, a career development program that provides early-to-mid-career investigators the skills and mentorship to better advance Alzheimer's disease research.



Congratulations to **Rachel Cooper**, a first-year medical student at UK College of Medicine, for being selected to receive the Alliant Health Solutions Fellowship, a National Medical Fellowship Research Program! Alliant Scholars are given the opportunity to complete a mentored research paper on a health care issue of their choice, with the goal of improving or extending life. Rachel's project will focus on the role of chronic hypertension in Black maternal and infant mortality. Rachel received a BS in Economics and Finance from Centre College,

and she holds an MHS in Global Health Economics from Johns Hopkins University. Rachel is mentored by CHET Director, Nancy Schoenberg.

**Ariel Arthur**, CHET Manager and Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, recently spoke at the 2022 Governor's Conference on Leadership, Equality, Accessibility, and Diversity (LEAD), a professional development conference focused on leadership, equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion that attracts hundreds of professionals across the U.S. She participated in a panel discussion with colleagues across the state entitled, "Addressing Needs and Providing Solutions for Equitable Access to Health Care."



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## **The Research Scholars Program Highlighted in UKNow**

The Research Scholars Program (RSP), co-directed by CHET Director, Dr. Nancy Schoenberg, and Dr. Kevin Pearson, Professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences and Assistant Dean for Inclusive Research Initiatives, aims to ensure diversity and inclusion in research by promoting faculty research success.

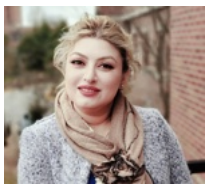
The RSP is a one-year, multi-component investment in the research success of junior faculty and their mentors. A recent article in UKNow underscores the development of the RSP, as well as discusses the significant opportunities the program provides for junior faculty. Many of the Research Scholars in the second cohort also share their thoughts about the program.

[Click here to read the article.](#)

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## **CHET Announces Awardees of the Graduate Student Pilot Grant - Special Funding for the Arts and Sciences Awardees**

Congratulations to Abi Stephens, PhD Candidate in History, for being awarded a grant to support her project entitled, "Historical Roots of Vaccine Hesitancy: Smallpox in Louisville's Black Community, 1897-1902."



Congratulations to Ghazal Khaksari, PhD Student in Anthropology, for being awarded a grant to support her project entitled, "Marginalization Amplified by the COVID-19 Pandemic: Navigating Access to Health and Well-being Services through Refugee-serving NGOs in the Atlanta, Georgia Region, U.S."

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## **Upcoming Events**



# JOIN CHET FOR A RESEARCH TALK



## Navigating the Rollercoaster of Life in Academia: My Career Journey from DC to PhD to CDC

**OSHEA JOHNSON, PH.D.**

Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**THURSDAY**  
FEBRUARY 24, 2023



**LOCATION**  
110 HEALTHY KENTUCKY  
RESEARCH BUILDING



**TIME**  
1:00-2:00 PM



# Translating Equity into Action



**18th ANNUAL CCTS SPRING CONFERENCE**

MARCH 27, 2023 | GATTON STUDENT CENTER

**Abstract Deadline:**

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023 at 5pm

**Conference:** Monday, March 27, 2023  
in-person at the UK Gatton Student Center

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Vanessa Northington Gamble, University Professor of Medical Humanities and Professor of American Studies, George Washington University

[Click here for conference details and to submit an abstract.](#)

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## Follow us 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/>

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