



GMaP Region 2

August 2020 Newsletter



Year of the Nurse



By Cathy D. Meade, PhD, RN, FAAN

I am often asked, “How did your interests evolve as a cancer scientist in the field of health disparities, cancer prevention, and literacy?” I guess it would be fair to say that it goes back to my training as a nurse and my early work experiences at a suburban community hospital and a county (publicly owned and operated) hospital.

Patient education and health teaching were fundamental aspects of these roles. In one setting, I worked on a cardiac telemetry unit and taught patient/family classes. At the other, I developed its first patient education/community health program, and had the opportunity to host a local television health show. While the settings, populations served, and geographic environments differed, there were striking similarities. First, patients and families wanted ‘practical’ information. Second, information was helpful when germane to their lives and understandable (hint: my interest in health literacy!). Third, trusting relationships facilitated communication and the exchange of ideas.

Today, I draw heavily on these lessons that inform my participatory approach to community-engaged health disparities research. In light of myriad health care, social,

and economic issues facing our communities, I ask each GMaP R2 member to reflect on how you can contribute toward health equity.

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” - Martin Luther King Jr.

By Clement K. Gwede, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

I was the first in my family to pursue a career in health care, and nursing



Drs. Meade (left) and Gwede (right) are Co-Project Directors of GMaP Region 2. Both are nurse scientists dedicated to addressing health disparities through a community focused lens.

anchors my career long journey to improve individual and population health. From my roots in rural Zimbabwe and throughout my training in nursing and public health sciences, I have maintained a broad lens for addressing social determinants of health,

What’s Inside?	
Nurse Scientist Superstars in GMaP Region 2!	2
2020 Footsteps to Funding - Training Workshop	3
Announcements	4

through health promotion to achieve health equity. My work in colorectal cancer screening interventions in federally qualified health clinics epitomizes culturally salient, community-engaged research that has direct benefit, and informs policy and practice changes. My transdisciplinary pedigree of nursing and public health guides my work in educating, training and mentoring of the next generation of health professionals: undergraduate, graduate and medical students, as well as staff nurses, public health educators and behavioral scientists.

As the Year of the Nurse (2020) grinds to a close amidst the prevailing pandemics of systemic structural racism and novel coronavirus (COVID-19), health disparities have been exacerbated. I continue to leverage the same lenses and tools such as cultural inclusivity, evidence-based approaches, training and mentoring to further my contributions and impact as a public health and nurse scientist.

Nurse Scientist Superstars in GMaP Region 2!



Dr. Lakeshia Cousin is a T32 Applied Postdoctoral Fellow at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida.

How did you decide on a career in nursing research?

Lakeshia: Working as an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, I witnessed the harsh impact of health disparities and poor self-management of chronic diseases—especially cancer and heart disease within my community and in my family. I became interested in reading more about nursing research and developing ideas to improve nursing practice and policies for the medically underserved.

Pearman: It seemed fun! I loved the idea of being able to help patients on a larger scale. I was particularly drawn to the potential of research having a lasting, positive impact on patients and communities.

What unique perspectives can nurse scientists contribute as opposed to traditional researchers?

Lakeshia: Nurses make up the largest proportion of health care profession-

als and are the backbone of health care systems. With our knowledge and hands-on experience in patient care, nurse scientists can help develop research that improves care standards and shapes health policies.

Pearman: We have personal connections with our patients unlike any other researchers. We have all had these heartfelt moments with patients.

These are the moments that show you the beauty and love of humanity.

These are the experiences that ground us, motivate us, and help us ask pertinent research questions. Every specific aim, every manuscript, and every grant proposal is centered on the people we love most – our patients.

What is one thing you wish you knew before becoming a nurse scientist?

Lakeshia: I wish I would've known how hard it is to balance clinical practice and research! I had so many grand ideas about working equally in both settings. Now I realize one might outweigh the other throughout my career. At the moment I focused on research, but I still serve as a Nurse Volunteer with the Florida Department of Health and the Pinellas County Urban League in my hometown of South St. Petersburg.

Pearman: Revisions are not personal. Revisions are a gift simply to improve the science.

What are your current research activities?

Lakeshia: I am currently working on research publications and grant activities. My research focuses on eliminating cancer disparities through com-



Dr. Pearman Parker is a KL2 Scholar and clinical instructor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas.

munity-based participatory research for underserved populations. Ultimately, I want to advance nursing science through the development of interventions to improve the health-related quality of life and cardio-metabolic prevention and control for African American cancer survivors.

Pearman: I am actively recruiting young women breast cancer survivors to participate in focus groups via Zoom ([click here to learn more!](#)). We will be talking about what did and didn't work in breast cancer educational materials to gain patient insights about survivorship education specific to young women. I am funded by the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI) grants (KL2TR003108; UL1TR003107) through the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the NIH and Arkansas Breast Cancer Research Program. I can't wait to get started!



Training Workshop Opportunity: Apply Today!

Footsteps to Funding



**A Virtual Targeted Training Workshop
for Doctoral Trainees, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Early Stage Investigators
to provide guidance on preparing and/or advancing your career development grant applications**

November 4—5, 2020

Description:

This interactive workshop is open to those who reside in GMAP Region 2 (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MI, MS, PR) and is intended to help doctoral trainees, early stage investigators, and post-doctoral fellows in the field of cancer and/or cancer health disparities research. Attendees will become familiar with grant funding mechanisms (e.g. F31, F99/K00, K01, K08, K22, K99/R00, R03, R21) and gain knowledge about the essential components needed for a competitive application.

Workshop attendees can expect to leave with a clear direction and timeline for submission of their next grant application.

Examples of session topics include:

- Navigating NIH/NCI funding mechanisms
- Establishing an outstanding mentoring team
- Getting to know your program officer
- Preparing a competitive application
- Writing your personal statement
- Specific aims feedback
- Putting into place relevant training activities
- Outlining a program of novel research
- Understanding study section & summary statements
- Learning grant-writing tips
- Knowing your resources
- Enjoying the process!

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Application Deadline : September 15, 2020

For additional information please visit our website at www.gmapregion2.com or contact our Regional Coordinating Team, Z'Kera Sims and Vivekka Suppiah, at gmap.region2@moffitt.org

This project is supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Grant Number 3P30CA076292-18S2, John Cleveland, PhD, (Principal Investigator); Cathy D. Meade, PhD, RN, FAAN and Clement K. Gwede, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN (Co-Project Directors).

Interested in participating as a Footsteps to Funding 2020 speaker?

Email us at gmap.region2@moffitt.org

Announcements

Click on the links to learn more!

- Interested in more opportunities like these?
- Want to be featured in our next newsletter?

Contact us at

gmap.region2@moffitt.org

JOURNAL OF Gerontological Nursing

[Surviving Multiple Pandemics— COVID-19 and Racism for African American Older Adults: A Call to Gerontological Nursing for Social Justice](#)



ARE YOU A HEALTHY ADULT MALE?



Learn About a Vaccination Study for Men, Ages 20-45.

New Applications of Synthetic Biology to Cancer Research Challenges: Oct 26, 28, and 30
Goals: Develop collaborative teams across synthetic biology and cancer research communities to explore critical cancer questions that can be addressed by re-engineering biology.
Audience: Faculty-level with expertise across cancer research and synthetic biology-related disciplines (i.e. engineering, physics, chemistry, systems biology, material science, data science, microbiome)
Applications due August 31

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

NCI Training Opportunities Discussion
September 30, 2020 | 3:00–4:30 PM (EDT)



Graphic Courtesy of VectorStock.com 2020

GMAP Region 2 EXPERT GRANT REVIEWS ARE AVAILABLE!

The Expert Grant Review award is intended to assist New Investigators and Early Stage Investigators who are applying for funding awards with feedback from senior researchers in the region. Region 2 is comprised of a variety of Cancer and CHD researchers who are experienced with the grant writing process and successful grant funding outcomes and are ready to help you!

Thank you for Joining GMAP Region 2!

The Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMAP) — consists of 7 regions and engages more than 1,200 disparities researchers, diversity trainees, and community health educators — employs a systematic and comprehensive strategy for building networks for the support and efficient management of cancer and cancer health disparities (CHD) re-search, training and infrastructure. **GMAP Region 2** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Puerto Rico and is based at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. GMAP provides enhanced access to career development resources, such as job openings, travel/scholarship funding, grant writing workshops, connections to the Training Navigator at the National Cancer Institute, and so much more!



Don't forget to follow us on social media!



Z'Kera Sims, MPH
Regional Coordinating Director

Vivekka Suppiah, MSc
Research Coordinator

Email: gmap.region2@moffitt.org
Phone Number: (813) 745-8726

This newsletter is made possible by grant 3P30CA076292-21S4 Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMAP Region 2) (Cleveland, PI; Meade & Gwede, Co-Project Directors) funded by the National Cancer Institute.