

Black Men, Medical Mistrust and Cancer: How can Cancer Care be more Trustworthy?

Speaker, Moderator and Cancer Action Council (CAC) Member Biographies

Speakers



Sirry Alang, Ph.D., M.A.

Dr. Alang is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health and Human Development at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Alang also founded the Institute of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at Lehigh University. Her work has focuses on the role of social structures and institutions in creating health inequities and developing capacity to engage in anti-racist practice and policy development. She has an extensive history of research on topics such as Covid-19, police brutality, medical mistrust, and mental health, with a focus on using a community based participatory action approach. Dr. Alang also trains, develops curricula, and consults on a variety of issues including antiracism, equity, and culturally responsive and inclusive practices.



Andrew Anderson, Ph.D.

Andrew Anderson, PhD is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. His work aims to identify the social drivers of health outcomes to inform the development of policy that supports high-quality, equitable health care. Prior to Tulane, Andrew was a research scientist and Phyllis Torda health care quality fellow at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and a director of quality measurement at the National Quality Forum (NQF). He is also a former with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) health policy research scholar, a RWJF Health Equity Scholar for Action, and a Health Affairs Health Equity Trainee.



Marlon I. Brown, D.P.A

Marlon Brown is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). He is responsible for leading various administrative functions of the department including communications, finance, human resources, legal affairs, policy and legislative affairs, and equity and inclusion initiatives. Marlon previously served as director of LARA's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs where he led the development of a transformative policy requiring all health care professionals in Michigan to receive training on implicit bias and the way it affects the delivery of health care services. He earned a BA in political science from American University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Delaware, and a Doctor of Public Administration from Valdosta State University.



Rhonda Dailey, M.D.

Rhonda Dailey, M.D., is an Assistant Professor of Research in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences (DFMPHS) in the School of Medicine and Scientific Director to the Office of Community Engaged Research (OCEnR), within the Office of the Vice President of Research, at Wayne State University. Formally trained in medicine, Dr. Dailey has over 20 years of experience in behavioral and health-disparities research and expertise in the recruitment and retention of minority populations in clinical settings and the engagement of medical professionals and community stakeholders in research. Her research work includes projects focused on implicit bias awareness and training, community engaged research, perinatal health, health equity and disparities related to systemic racism and chronic disease (particularly cardiovascular disease), patient attitudes and beliefs about health, and healthcare quality. Dr. Dailey currently serves as the site PI to the Biosocial Impact on Black Births (BIBB) and Father's Matter studies, the Co-Associate Director of the Community Engagement Core of the ACHIEVE GREATER center and the clinical coordinator to the Michigan Developmental Institute's (MI- DDI) COVID-19 Vaccination grant.



Isaac Powell, M.D., M.S.

Dr. Powell is an urologist at the Karmanos Cancer Institute and a professor in Wayne State University's School of Medicine. Dr. Powell's specialty is in prostate cancer and the genetics of prostate cancer development. He is a leader in studying the influence of race on cancer behavior, specifically the ways prostate cancer impacts African Americans in comparison to other ethnic groups. Dr. Powell has been recognized numerous times for his work and dedication, including by the American Urological Association, Howard University's Cancer Center and Crain's Detroit Business Magazine.



Ralph Williams, M.D.

Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University, in the department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences. He also serves as the medical Director of the Robert R. Frank Student Run Free Clinic, as well as the Clinical Experiential Course Director for the School of Medicine. He is also dedicated to numerous committees at Wayne State's School of Medicine. Dr. Williams is currently a practicing Family Medicine/Primary Care Physician at DMC Harper and Receiving Hospitals. He is a two-time winner of Wayne State's Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award.



Robert Winn, M.D.

Dr. Winn is the Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center, one of 54 NCI Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation. He has been nationally recognized for his community engagement efforts to build trust in disenfranchised communities, including a recent conversation series titled Facts and Faith Fridays, creating dialogue between science, community, and faith leaders to combat medical mistrust within the African American Community. Dr. Winn manages a translational research laboratory focused on molecular mechanisms and novel therapeutic approaches for lung cancer, as well as the interaction of social and biological factors on health disparities.

Moderators



Hayley S. Thompson, Ph.D.

Hayley S. Thompson, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine and the inaugural Associate Center Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI), an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center. In this role, she established KCI's Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) and serves as its founding faculty supervisor. She is also founding director of the emerging WSU Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP), part of CVS Health's Community Equity Alliance. She is a clinical psychologist whose research addresses racial and ethnic disparities in cancer care and outcomes. Her primary focus is community-based research, including investigations of cancer survivorship. She has received funding from the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Patient-Centered Outcomes and Research Institute, and other agencies and foundations. Within CHECK-UP, she oversees the Community Health Scholars Program, designed to support metro Detroit residents in building and applying research skills, and co-directs the Faith Community Research Network, a local collaborative of African American faith-based organizations, as well as an annual Community-Engaged Research Symposium.



Lauren M. Hamel, Ph.D.

Dr. Hamel is an Associate Professor in Communication and Behavioral Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine and serves as Co-Program Leader for the Population Studies and Disparities Research Program of the Karmanos Cancer Institute. She has done considerable research on clinical communication between patients and providers, specifically regarding the manifestation of racial attitudes during oncology interactions, and how those behaviors influence treatment decisions and outcomes. She is currently Principal Investigator of a 5-year grant from the American Cancer Society to test an intervention she and her team build which is designed to improve patient-provider discussions on treatment costs and the financial toxicity of cancer care. Dr. Hamel was named among the nation's 40 under 40 in 2020 for emerging leaders in oncology and recognized locally in Crain's Detroit Business 2021 list of Notable Rising Stars in health care.



Eddie Connor, Ed.D.

Dr. Connor is an author, speaker, radio/TV correspondent, host of the Vision Summit, and a stage 4 cancer survivor. He was a professor at Marygrove College and has authored 14 best-selling books. He is the founder of the Eagles Academy as well as two mentoring programs for young men; Boys 2 Books and Gifted for Greatness. Dr. Connor is a recipient of The President Barack Obama Volunteer Service Award and The President Barack Obama Lifetime Achievement Award from The White House. Dr. Connor speaks extensively at churches, colleges, and conferences by empowering and inspiring people to maximize their purpose.

Black Men's CAC Members



Cornelius Wilson

Cornelius Wilson has an extensive 25+ year background working in the field of human services.

Cornelius currently works with City of Detroit Health Department/HOPWA Housing Program as Senior Housing Coordinator; he Co-founded and was Executive Director for a local HIV/AIDS advocacy and service organization (Men of Color Motivational Group); served as Project Director with Travelers Aid Society of Detroit, a case management and supportive housing agency; as Senior Case Manager with Target Population Services (TaPS, Inc.) for persons in recovery seeking recovery support services, and as the Co-founder & Program Director for Guiding Light Sober Living, Inc., an agency established to provide for the special needs of housing along with recovery management services as well as supportive services for men living with and/or at high risk for contracting HIV.

Mr. Wilson earned an associate degree in Business Administration from the Detroit Business Institute; he currently serves as Board member on the Detroit planning body for the Southeast Michigan HIV/AIDS Council (SEMHAC) as their finance committee chair; he is a co-founder and currently works with MiGen (formerly SAGE Metro Detroit) as Chief Engagement Officer and is currently MiGen's Program Committee Chairman which includes planning the Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit and Annual Fall Symposium; he serves as volunteer with Michigan's AARP; serves on the advisory council for the Long-Term Care Equality Index with SAGE National & Human Rights Campaign; he serves as council member for the Black Mens Cancer Action Council; he serves as a community advisory board member with MI-COST, MI Community Outreach to Address Financial Toxicity for person living with cancer.

Dwight Blakey

Dwight E Blakey is the Husband of Carla Tademy Blakey; they are the Parents of 6 children and reside in Detroit. He is the Creator, President & Chief Operations Officer of Blakey Enterprises, Inc., a 25 year old Architecture Design, Programming & Project Management Corporation. Mr. Blakey a graduate of Southern University and A & M College's School of Engineering-Division of Architecture with a Focus on Urban Design.

Dwight's Life has been centered & Anchored on the Art, Science & Profession of creating Strong, Healthy Community Environments. So when close Friend Dr. Truman Hudson Jr. introduced him to the Black Men's Cancer Action Council, it's rationale for Being and Goals to affect Our Community, especially Our Black Men, and requested I participate, "Yes" was the only plausible response. His daily moves are anchored on finding what is needed, desired and achievable, then setting in motion strategies for solutions, with family, clients, friends and youngsters. Dwight's hobbies searching for the fun in everything he does!



Henry R. McKee, Jr.

Henry R. McKee, Jr. is a retired educator having served in New Orleans and Detroit for 40 years. He earned his degree from Dillard University (Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Secondary Education). Mr. McKee has served as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal at the junior and senior high school levels.

Mr. McKee is a survivor of Advanced Aggressive Prostate Cancer. In May, 2004, he co-chaired a prostate cancer awareness workshop at People's Community Church. He has conducted individual and group counselling sessions with those facing prostate surgery. Finally, he became involved with BMCAC because I lost five close associates to prostate cancer.



Jim Scott

James R. "Jim" Scott is a business manager who manages the offices of three podiatric surgeons and one professional music writer, composer, and international musician. Jim is a cancer survivor. He believes that people from underserved communities deserve equal health care. He got involved with the Black Men's Cancer Action Council because black men are not always given the same level of health care as a white person. Mr. Scott continues to share his cancer journey story with medical doctors, researchers, members of congress, cancer patients, caregivers, and the public nationally and internationally. Jim enjoys bicycling with his dog in the basket. He is a US Army Veteran (Vietnam Campaign) and a Scientific Peer Reviewer for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs for the Department of Defense. Jim is a patient advocate for the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) and an Ambassador and Board of Directors member for Gilda's Club Detroit.



Kenneth Harlin Jr.

Kenneth Harlin Jr. is a Senior Fire Engine Operator (FEO) for the Detroit Fire Department. In his role, he has transported personnel and equipment to all 911 calls and hazardous conditions where the primary focus was to save lives and then protect property. Mr. Harlin is also the Charter member and past Sargent of Arms of the CTC organization, a club starting in the 1940's, Vice president in church ministry, a Vietnam veteran.

Mr. Harlin is a double cancer survivor (lung and prostate). He joined the Black Men's CAC because people in the black community need to see someone who looks like them spreading information and knowledge.



Marvin Pettway

Marvin Pettway is a husband, proud father, and grandfather who seeks service opportunities within and outside of his home church, Tabernacle Missionary Baptist.

He holds degrees (Bachelor of Science and Masters) in Forestry from the University of Michigan. Marvin believes that Stewardship is both the foundation and a guide for living The Good Life. "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones..." Luke 16:10. This is a reason for his volunteerism and is the motivation for his involvement with the Black Men's Cancer Action Council and ReLeaf Michigan, the statewide organization of volunteers that coordinates community tree-planting events.

Marvin is passionately grateful for all of the opportunities to serve.

Robert Thomas

Robert E. Thomas is a native Detroiter and a Northwestern High School graduate. Robert attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, North Carolina A&T State University, and Wayne State University Law School where he received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, his Master's degree in industrial technology – manufacturing systems, and his doctorate of laws (juris doctorate). Robert, also is a former engineer with the nuclear defense industry and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Robert currently is a patent consultant, a foster care consultant, and the chairman of the Board of Zoning

Appeals for the city of Detroit. Robert currently works for a major automotive company covering regulatory and privacy law.

In addition to these accomplishments, his organizational affiliations include; The State of Michigan Foster Care Review Board – advisory board member, Foster Care Alumni of America– Michigan President, The Foster Care Work Group – Youth Transitions Funders Group (YTFG), The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., board member - Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation, Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) 2014 Fellow, New Leaders Council – Detroit Fellow (NLC) 2015, Bme Vanguard 2019 Fellow, MacDowell Preparatory Academy- board vice chairman, he is also an awardee of the Detroit Young Professionals Vanguard and Emerging Leader Award in 2014, a class of 2016 Michigan Chronicle “Men of Excellence” honoree and a DBusiness Magazine “30 In Their Thirties” class of 2017 honoree.



Eric McCloud, E.d.D

Dr. Eric McCloud is a diversity, equity and inclusion strategist, scholar, and researcher with over a decade of experience working in education, automotive, and sports & entertainment industries.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Michigan State University, a Masters of Arts in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Michigan - Dearborn.

He currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for the Detroit Lions, where he works to advance equitable practices and policies that positively enhance the experiences of employees, fans and the greater community. In addition, Eric serves as the project coordinator for the Black Men’s Cancer Action Council.