



## Health Disparities Research Scholars Training Program

### Description

**Objective:** The objective of the Health Disparities Research Scholars (HDRS) Training Program is to provide training at the postdoctoral level in interdisciplinary research that addresses disparities in health status and health outcomes among minority mothers, infants, children and their families in the broadest sense.

**Mission:** This training program reflects one of several new strategic components of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's mission. Our mission is to bring together medicine, which traditionally focuses on individual patients and emphasizes molecular, cellular and organ-system perspectives, with public health, which focuses on prevention of illness, promotion of health and addressing disparities in health and health outcomes among underserved communities. To this end, we are developing culturally competent research, education, and training programs; we are identifying pathways to eliminate health disparities among minority and vulnerable populations; and we are adopting interdisciplinary approaches to improving health outcomes through the formation of strategic partnerships among academia, government, and communities in Wisconsin and beyond.

**Description:** The HDRS Training Program provides interdisciplinary and multifaceted opportunities for research that include not only biomedical and behavioral sciences, but also investigation into quality of care, including cost, access and satisfaction with services; the causes of and barriers to reducing health disparities; attitudes towards health, language spoken, educational level, community profile and socioeconomic status; identification of assessment measures for outcomes, quality and appropriateness of health care services. To address not only the broad array of research areas outlined above but also the interdisciplinary nature of the possible candidates, the HDRS faculty is interdisciplinary and consists of physician scientists, perinatal researchers, sociologists, nurse scientists, nutritional scientists, epidemiologists and economists. The faculty/mentors are drawn from a wide array of departments, disciplines, centers and institutes at the University of Wisconsin Madison Campus and are committed to research directed toward reducing disparities in health. We will provide trainees with knowledge, skills and research experiences through mentorship with experienced investigators combined with an individualized career development plan, guidance, educational plan, role modeling and social support. The program's novel Two Mentor Model requires a team of two faculty mentors for each HDRS scholar, recognizing that successful health disparities research benefits from interdisciplinary expertise, familiarity with and access to both quantitative and qualitative research approaches and tapping biomedical/basic sciences, behavioral and social sciences and demography and epidemiological approaches to examine disparities in health and health outcomes. We are committed to providing an environment that is supportive, academically rewarding, culturally enriching and professionally satisfying.

**Individualized Career Development:** The HDRS Training Program will provide an Individualized Career Development Plan with activities geared to each scholar's career level, interests, and learning

needs. Each plan will be formulated in collaboration with the scholar, the scholar's faculty mentors and the program directors. While each plan and associated coursework will vary, each Scholar will achieve competency in biostatistics, study design, research ethics, scientific presentations, community-academic partnership building and effective communication both verbally and in writing. Course work includes: a short course in clinical research whereby the scholar will be exposed to current topics and issues related to the performance of clinical research; a scientific writing workshop; a community based participatory research (CBPR) seminar series and practicum which will teach strategies for partnering with community organizations to conduct CBPR; and a seminar series on intercultural communication in healthcare. The research component consists of participation in an ongoing research project and mentored development of a new research project. See attached listing of research areas and affiliated faculty mentors.

**Program Directors:**

Gloria E. Sarto, MD, PhD  
Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Scientific Director, Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Healthcare  
Co-Director of the UW Center for Women's Health Research  
UW-Madison, School of Medicine and Public Health

Gloria Johnson-Powell, MD  
Associate Dean for Cultural Diversity  
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Celia Maxwell, MD, FACP  
Assistant Vice President of Health Sciences  
Director, The Women's Health Institute  
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Visiting Professor, University of Wisconsin

**Source of Support:**

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
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**Application:** Interested individuals are invited to complete the attached short application form. If you have any questions, please direct inquiries to Gloria E. Sarto, MD, PhD.

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