



# Year Report

2012-2017

MEHARRY  
VANDERBILT  
ALLIANCE

SINCE 1999

Dear Friends:

Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center share a deep commitment to high-quality health sciences education, innovative biomedical research and improving the health of the community. With these shared commitments, we are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance.

Now in its 19th year, the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance continues to thrive as a well-established bridge between our institutions and with the Nashville community. Our collaborative initiatives have evolved to meet the changing needs of our faculty, students and communities, and in response to the changing health care environment, new research priorities, and advances in technology.

The last five years represent an important time period for the Alliance. In 2012, leadership transitioned from Clifton Meador, MD, the founding executive director, to Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI. With new priorities in interprofessional education, personalized medicine, and community-engaged research, Dr. Wilkins was charged with building on the strong foundation built by Dr. Meador, and charting new paths to strengthen the Alliance.

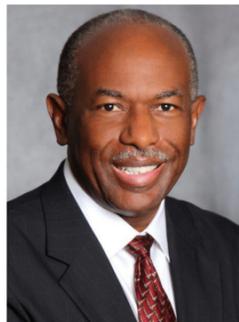
This 5-year report showcases some of our many collaborative successes, and most importantly, highlights our most important assets—the faculty, staff, and students who embrace this partnership. At a time when many academic health centers are just beginning to develop strategic partnerships, we are an example of a strong and historic collaboration that recognizes the unique strengths of each institution. The Alliance is often cited by the NIH and other national organizations for its success in allowing our two institutions to pursue ambitious goals that couldn't be achieved independently.

We take no small measure of pride in the Alliance's achievements. Its successful initiatives are the foundation of the bridge between our institutions. We look forward to its future accomplishments and are eager to continue building upon our mutually beneficial and enduring relationship.

Sincerely,

James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD  
President and CEO  
Meharry Medical College

Jeffrey R. Balsler, MD, PhD  
President and CEO  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



## Alliance Steering Committee

### Meharry Medical College

James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD  
*President and CEO*



Maria Fatima Lima, PhD  
*Dean and Professor  
School of Graduate Studies and Research  
Interim Vice President for Research*

Cherae Farmer-Dixon, DDS  
*Dean and Professor, School of Dentistry*

Veronica T. Mallett, MD, MMM  
*Senior Vice President for Health Affairs  
Dean, School of Medicine*

### Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Jeffrey R. Balsler, MD, PhD  
*President and CEO*



Robert Dittus, MD, MPH  
*Albert and Bernard Werthan Professor of Medicine  
Executive Vice President for Public Health and Health Care  
Senior Associate Dean for Population Health Sciences  
Director, Institute for Medicine and Public Health*

Gordon Bernard, MD  
*Melinda Owen Bass Professor of Medicine  
Executive Vice President for Research*

Bonnie Miller, MD, MMHC  
*Senior Associate Dean for Health Sciences Education,  
Vanderbilt University  
Executive Vice President for Educational Affairs,  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center*

Linda D. Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN  
*Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing  
Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing*

## Alliance Team

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI  
*Executive Director*

Kimberly Avant  
*Program Manager*

Alecia Fair  
*Research Assistant Professor*

Jacquelyn Favours  
*Program Manager*

Elisa Friedman  
*Director of Planning and  
Community Engagement*

Virginia Fuqua-Meadows  
*Administrative Director*

Pilar Prather  
*Program Manager*

Matt Schorr  
*Communications Coordinator*

Sarah Stallings  
*Research Assistant Professor*

Brenda Sterritt  
*Administrative Assistant*

Victoria Villalta-Gil  
*Senior Research Specialist*

Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance  
5-Year Report, 2012-17, Published August 2017  
Matt Schorr, *Editor* • Carla Beals, *Designer*

Dear Colleagues,

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance has enjoyed 18 successful years thanks to the collaborative achievements of Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center's faculty, staff and students. In 1999, both institutions aimed to create an Alliance "built on mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual benefit." Since that time, the Alliance has established a reputation for developing and supporting collaborative initiatives and programs, both in biomedical research and clinical science training.

When I became Executive Director in 2012, I worked to continue that tradition and to carry the Alliance forward with new efforts. While details follow in subsequent pages, some highlights from the past 5 years are:

- **Continued Growth of Community Engagement:** The Alliance culminated its 15-Year Anniversary with lectures by Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc, from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and Alan Richmond, MSW, from Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, and with mini-grants awarded to community groups. The Alliance continues to be a convener and supporter of collaboratives focused on everything from faith and health to health equity.
- **New and Growing Focus on Training and Mentoring:** The Alliance established the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Pillar and, in particular, the Inter-Institutional Student Pilot Project, a collaborative program partnering faculty and students with local non-profit organizations.
- **National Recognition for Expertise in Community Engaged Research:** In 2016, the Alliance recognized and stepped into a professional development gap to hold The Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research Conference, convening researchers and community stakeholders to advance innovative methods and promising practices in the relatively new field of community engaged research.
- **Growing External Funding:** The Alliance's external research funding portfolio has grown to \$25 million, culminating in an Alliance-held multi-institutional grant to establish a Vanderbilt-Meharry Medical College-University of Miami Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health, funding projects and core resource infrastructure for bringing precision medicine approaches to research on health disparities.
- **Purposeful Support of Health Care Access for All:** Working with the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee, the Alliance supported and facilitated My HealthCare Home, a web service linking the area's uninsured and underinsured to affordable, accessible, quality healthcare through the Safety Net's clinic partners.

Community engaged research and elimination of health disparities remain a major focus of our work at the Alliance. We remain committed to bridging the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical College investigator communities while expanding the scope of inter-institutional collaborations.

Sincerely,

Executive Director  
Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance  
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine  
Meharry Medical College



# BACKGROUND & HISTORY

*"At a time when many institutions are just starting to form partnerships with one another, we have the privilege of having a strong foundation in which two institutions with very different goals have found many in common."*

—Consuelo H. Wilkins  
Executive Director, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

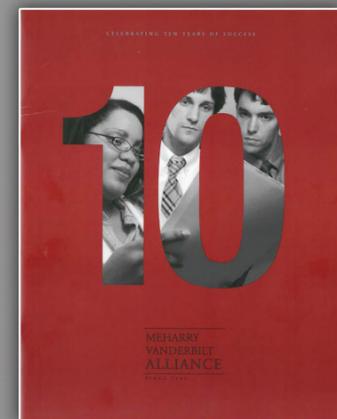
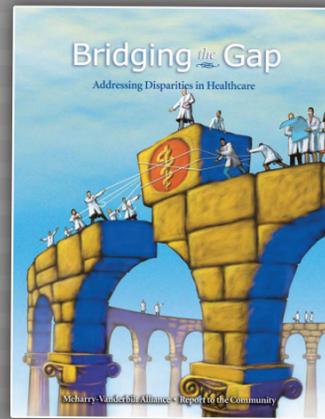
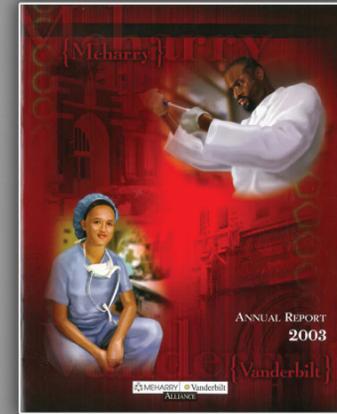
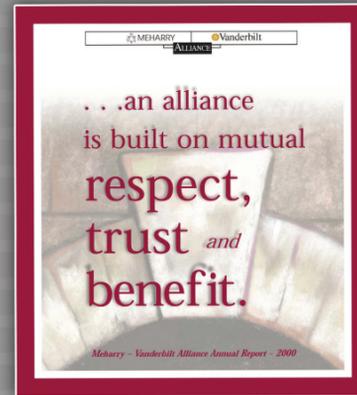
## 1999-2012

In the fall of 1998, Dr. John Maupin, President of Meharry Medical College (MMC), and Dr. Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), began talks for a mutually beneficial collaboration.

Both Meharry and Vanderbilt existed since the mid-1870's and operated as completely separate institutions. There were occasional interchanges. Faculty from both campuses would sometimes teach or conduct joint research programs. Beyond that, however, there was little or no interchange.

Maupin and Jacobson set about determining what would constitute a mutually beneficial and enduring relationship. After almost a year of meetings with faculty, it was determined that the areas of shared interest and opportunities for collaboration included:

- undergraduate medical education
- shared library services and informatics
- joint research and training programs
- collaboration with community partners



History and accomplishments of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance are captured in various reports, publications, and on the MVA website. Past reports include (clockwise from top left): 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance (MVA) opened on January 2, 1999, under the leadership of Dr. Clifton K. Meador, who served as Executive Director until his retirement in 2012.

A search committee with members from both institutions recruited the MVA's next leader – Dr. Consuelo H. Wilkins – who began in June 2012 with a new focus in the area of Community-Based Research.

# 15-YEAR CELEBRATION

## 15 Years of Collaboration

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance celebrated its 15-year anniversary with a lecture series featuring speakers from across the United States to discuss health disparities and population health.

The Alliance also awarded mini-grants supporting community engagement to Julie's Village, Health Impacts of Degraded Environments (HIDE), Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center and the Nashville Latino Health Coalition. Julie's Village, founded by Julie Hamilton, reduces barriers to breastfeeding by filling a huge gap in prenatal, breastfeeding preparedness education, and HIDE (through a partnership with Meharry Medical College, Tennessee State University and community

members) investigated asthma rates in the Cayce community in Nashville. Likewise, Matthew Walker is a non-profit healthcare agency serving the Middle Tennessee community, and the Nashville Latino Health Coalition is a collaboration between the Hispanic community and public health and academic organizations who share the goal of improving health.



Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center CEO Katina Beard meets with MVA Director of Planning and Community Engagement Elisa Friedman, MS at the MVA's 15-Year Anniversary Celebration. Matthew Walker received a mini-grant for its work serving the Middle Tennessee community.



Leah Alexander, PhD, MMC Assistant Professor; Flora Ukoli, MD, MPH, MMC Professor; Al Richmond, MSW, CCPH Executive Director; Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI, MVA Executive Director; Yvonne Joosten, MPH, Vanderbilt Assistant Professor; Giselle Corbie Smith, MD, MSc, UNC Professor; Stephania Miller-Hughes, PhD, MMC Associate Professor; Maureen Sanderson, MPH, RD, PhD, MMC Professor; and others met for Community Roundtable Discussions during the MVA's 15-Year Anniversary Celebration.

# RESEARCH

*Emphasizing the engagement of patients and community stakeholders in all phases of research, the Alliance addresses health disparities, health interventions, participant engagement, and patient-centered outcomes in healthcare.*

## GRANTS

### Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR)

VICTR, supported by the NIH-sponsored Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), is Vanderbilt's virtual home for clinical and translational research with the mission to transform the way ideas and research discoveries become improved patient care. The Meharry-Vanderbilt Community-Engaged Research Core (CERC) is an inter- and intra-institutional, multi-disciplinary program that integrates the principles of participatory engagement in all aspects of its work.

### MMC, VICC, & TSU: Partners in Eliminating Cancer Disparities

The overall objective of the U54 grant is to strengthen and expand the existing cancer research partnership between Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and Tennessee State University (TSU). The project

became a reality in 2000, when Samuel Adunyah, PhD, and Harold Moses, MD, successfully competed for one of only two U54 National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Partnership Grants that were funded in the country.

### CFAR: Tennessee Center for AIDS Research

VUMC received a five-year grant from the NIH to establish the Tennessee Center for AIDS Research with Meharry Medical College and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). Its aims are twofold: to improve the continuum of HIV/AIDS care in Tennessee and beyond, and to advance personalized care in the treatment of HIV.

### The Precision Medicine and Health Disparities Collaborative (PMHDC)

Researchers at VUMC, University of Miami and Meharry Medical College were awarded a five-year, \$11.6 million grant to launch a new center enabling research using precision medicine approaches to address health disparities, specifically those among African Americans and Latinos in the Southeast region.

### Mid-South Clinical Data Research Network (MS-CDRN) Stakeholder Advisory Council

The Mid-South Clinical Data Research Network (MS-CDRN) includes academic centers, community hospitals and a range of outpatient practices providing access to clinical data, patients, providers, and systems to address a wide array of research questions. The Stakeholder Advisory Council, made up of Community Members and Patient Investigators, strives to strengthen the network's efforts.

## PUBLICATIONS/CITATIONS

### Genomic Medicine

Dr. Wilkins' presentation on "Inclusion of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Genomic Medicine" was featured in a *National Academies* publication, "Applying an Imple-



Dr. Harold Moses and Dr. Samuel Adunyah, awarded a U54 NCI Comprehensive Partnership Grant for cancer research in 2000, have been part of the cancer partnership for more than 15 years.

mentation Science Approach to Genomic Medicine: Workshop Summary", in April 2016.

### Addressing Health Disparities

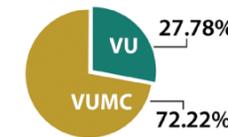
"Needs, Priorities and Recommendations for Engaging Underrepresented Populations in Clinical Research: A Community Perspective," a paper co-authored by Dr. Wilkins under her MVA research team and published in the *Journal of Community Health* in June 2017, addresses healthcare disparities that result from under-represented groups in outcomes research and that engaging these groups is a public health priority for reducing such disparities.

### Community Engagement Studios

"Community Engagement Studios: A Structured Approach to Obtaining Meaningful Input From Stakeholders to Inform Research" a paper authored by Yvonne Joosten, MPH, Dr. Wilkins, et al., was published in *Academic*

## Total number of joint grants with MMC and VUMC

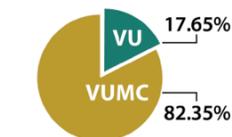
### Institutional Collaboration



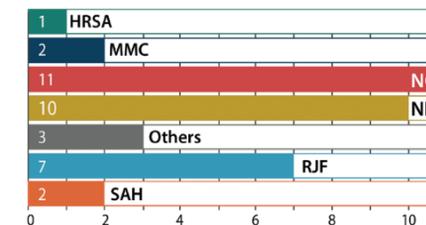
### Project Funding



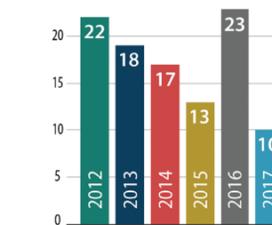
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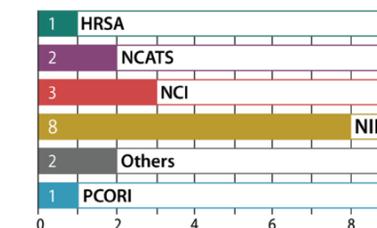
### Projects Funded by Prime Sponsor



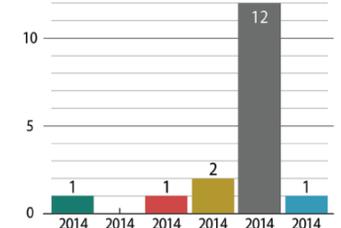
### Active Awards per Year



### Contracts per Prime Sponsor



### Contracts per Year



Medicine in December 2015.

### Diabetes Study

In June 2015 "Assessing the Effectiveness of Pharmacist-Directed Medication Therapy Management in Improving Diabetes Outcomes in Patients with Poorly Controlled Diabetes," (a study showing that underserved patients with sub-optimally controlled type 2 diabetes cared for by pharmacists were more adherent to their medication regimen and had better blood sugar control than those who did not have a pharmacist in their care team) was published in the medical journal *The Diabetes*

Educator and featured in *Endocrine Today* and *Drug Store News*.

## CULTIVATING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

### Workshops

In June 2015, the Alliance presented a series of five educational sessions: Reviewing Scientific Literature and Grants 101, Writing a Scientific Manuscript, Fundamentals of Study Design, and Biostatistics Fundamentals (Part

I and Part II).

### Matchmaking Partners

The MVA brought together Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, MD, from MMC and Kristy Sinkfield, MEd, from VUMC, to pilot a weight loss campaign entitled "Losing Big." The 12-week program provided an innovative take on inspiring healthy lifestyles in the community through group support and competitive motivation, with inspiration drawn from the popular television series "The Biggest Loser."

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee President Carol Westlake and Metro Public Health Department Bill Paul, MD, MPH announce the launch of My HealthCare Home.



MMC Master of Science in Public Health student Mabya Nannor discusses ideas during a breakout session at the Health & Hunder Summit.

*Building bridges through strategic partnerships with Meharry, Vanderbilt and community organizations to address the needs of diverse and underserved populations—the Alliance promotes health equity through partnerships with stakeholders.*

## SAFETY NET CONSORTIUM OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

The Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee (SNCMT) was established in 2000 to improve the health and healthcare of low income, uninsured residents of Nashville, Davidson County, and surrounding areas. The Consortium provides access to appropriate levels of care by bringing together clinics, providers, academicians, and consumer and community leaders to integrate knowledge and skills to support an effective system of care. (<http://sncmt.org>)

### Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee 15-Year Anniversary

Nearly 100 community and healthcare leaders gathered at Saint Thomas Midtown in October 2015 to celebrate the accomplishments of the SNCMT and Project Access Nashville Specialty Care.

The 2015 Dr. Clifton Meador Community Health Leadership Award was presented to Carol Westlake, Board President for the SNCMT since 2008 and a nationally recognized leader in the disability community and a life-long advocate for vulnerable populations.

### My HealthCare Home

An initiative of SNCMT and MVA, the My HealthCare Home web portal connects patients and healthcare consumers in Nashville and across middle Tennessee to over

50 not-for-profit community-based clinics that provide accessible, affordable, high quality continuing care as an alternative to emergency room or minute clinic visits. (<http://myhchtn.org>)

## COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES

The MVA convenes Community Roundtables that bring together national and local experts, community partners, faculty and students. Community Roundtable topics focus on issues of high priority to the community.

### Dr. Camara Jones – Health Equity

Camara Jones, MD, PhD, MPH, President of the American Public Health Association and a Senior Fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and the Cardiovascular Research Institute, told community members gathered at the Alliance in September 2016, “It’s not a scary thing to identify racism. It’s an empowering thing.” She described racism as a system that creates dual realities that unfairly benefit specific groups over others, making it difficult for groups who benefit to recognize that such realities exist.

### Dr. Karen Hacker – Health Equity and Population Health

Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, addressed researchers, clinicians, and community agencies at the Alliance in February 2017 to discuss health equity and population health.

“As a health department director, I have to understand my community,” Hacker said. “The role of the community is important in determining health outcomes for all who live there. Ultimately, it’s going to be the communities that affect change.”

## COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Alliance both convenes and participates in various coalitions, councils, and committees that focus on health issues of mutual concern.

### Nashville Health Disparities Coalition

The Nashville Health Disparities Coalition (NHDC) empowers community members in priority population groups to seek better health, helps change local health-care practices, and mobilizes communities to implement evidence-based public health programs to reduce health disparities across a broad range of conditions.

### Faith and Health

The Faith and Health Collaborative, a sub-committee of the Nashville Health Disparities Coalition, brings together the faith community, non-profit partners, healthcare, government, community members, academics and others to coordinate activities involving the faith community and to build capacity to address health equity using the assets of the faith community.

### Healthy Nashville Leadership Council

The Healthy Nashville Leadership Council (HNLC), established by Executive Order in 2002 by Mayor Bill Purcell, seeks to improve health and quality of life for those who live, work, learn, worship and play in Nashville.

*“It’s not a scary thing to identify racism. It’s an empowering thing.”*

–Camara Jones, MD, PhD, MPH



David Satcher, MD, PhD, FAAFP, FACP, 16th Surgeon General of US, Camara Jones, MD, PhD, MPH, and James E. K. Hildreth, PhD, MD, President and CEO of Meharry Medical College, at the Community Roundtable discussion on race and racism.



Stephanie Miller-Hughes, PhD, MS, MSCI, is Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at Meharry Medical College and has worked with the Alliance's Community Engagement pillar on projects like the 2016 screening of "Unnatural Causes" by the Nashville Health Disparities Coalition.

**Women's Heart Alliance**

The Women's Heart Alliance (WHA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to women's heart health. In February 2017, the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance joined the WHA, Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, and others to announce the Cities and Communities with Heart Initiative (CCHI) Nashville, a collaborative, multi-year effort to stop women in Nashville from suffering and dying from cardiovascular disease (CVD).

**MINI-GRANTS**

In celebration of 15 years of partnership between MMC and VUMC, we awarded mini-grants to support activities that promote ongoing, mutually beneficial, health research partnerships between community organizations and academic researchers. In addition to Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center and

Progreso Community Center, these are highlights of two mini-grant recipients.

**Health Impacts of Degraded Environments (HIDE)**

Poor air quality is a potent asthma trigger, and the Cayce community in East Nashville is burdened with one of the highest asthma rates in Davidson County, Tennessee. With funding from a MVA 15-Year Anniversary Grant, HIDE formed a partnership with MMC, Tennessee State University, and community members to investigate indoor and outdoor environmental exposures.

**Julie's Village**

The MVA supported Julie's Village with a mini-grant to partner with a researcher at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing to educate women about breastfeeding. Julie's Village helps women develop customized breastfeeding pathways and helps corporations implement breastfeeding policies and training.



Kimberly Jackson, HIDE founder and Executive Director, and David H. Padgett, PhD, Associate Professor of Geography and Director of Geographic Information Services Laboratory at Tennessee State University collect air samples in the Cayce community



Julie's Village founder Julie Hamilton, MVA Executive Director Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI, Vanderbilt Associate Professor of Nursing Melania Lutenbacher, PhD, MSN and MVA Director of Planning and Community Engagement Elisa Friedman, MS met again after Julie's Village received the 15-Year Mini-Grant to discuss how it will lead to mutually beneficial work and improve health.



Top left: Rep. Rev. Harold Love and Tene' H. Franklin, MS, at the Faith and Health Summit at Lee Chapel AME Church in Nashville



Top right: HNLCo-chair and MVA Director of Planning and Community Engagement Elisa Friedman and HNLCo-Chair Freida Outlaw

Bottom left: Margaret Hargreaves, PhD serves as Co-Investigator and Associate Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core and as Professor in the Department of Medicine at Meharry Medical College. She was also a Co-Principal Investigator on the MVA's 15-Year Anniversary Mini-Grant for MWCHC.



Bottom right: Women's Heart Alliance Executive Director British Robinson and country music singer Martina McBride at the announcement of the Cities and Communities with Heart Initiative Nashville.



# INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

*Creating innovative avenues for inter-professional and educational collaboration for students and faculty to share and apply knowledge to leave a lasting impact on the community. Alliance programs are developed to leverage strengths and collaboration.*

## IPE PILOT PROJECT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Students from Belmont University, Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University, MMC and VUMC were honored for their work with non-profit organizations serving the community at the 2014-2015 Inter-Institutional Interprofessional Education Student Pilot Project Recognition Ceremony.

The Interprofessional Education (IPE) Pilot Project is a collaborative effort between academia and the community. Students in the healthcare field work together with non-profit organizations with the goal of bettering their community. The project offers an opportunity for collaboration in a real world setting.

In all, six teams worked to produce tangible products, ranging from pamphlets to instructional videos for community partners, including St. Luke's Community House, Street Works, and Urban Housing Solutions.

## IPE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### St Luke's Community House

St. Luke's was founded in 1913 as The West Nashville Clinic by the Daughters of the King, an order of the Episcopal Church. Kate Edmondson founded the Community House with the mission of helping low income families, seniors and individuals in West Nashville achieve their potential and prevent problems that threaten the stability of families and community. (<http://www.stlch.org>)

### Street Works

Street Works is one of Tennessee's leading HIV service organizations, providing free, confidential testing and supportive services to persons living with HIV disease in the Nashville/Middle Tennessee area since 1997. Their mission is to prevent the spread of HIV disease and provide care and supportive services for those infected and affected through outreach, education, and advocacy in communities of greatest risk. (<http://street-works.org>)

### Urban Housing Solutions

Urban Housing Solutions is a spin-off of The Council of Community Services (CSS) housing division, which began in Nashville in the late eighties, to address the need for long-term, affordable housing for the homeless. Today, Urban Housing Solutions manages over 30 properties, and offers a wide array of affordable housing for all different income levels and needs. (<http://urbanhousing-solutions.org>)



Ron Crowder, founder of IPE community partner Street Works, speaks during the IPE Pilot Project Recognition Ceremony.



## FACULTY COLLABORATIVE



**IPE Faculty Director:**  
**Mavis Schorn, CNM, PhD, FACNM**

**Mavis Schorn, CNM, PhD, FACNM**, was appointed Interprofessional Education and Inter-Institutional Collaborative Learning Faculty Director for the Alliance in

August 2016. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Texas in Austin, a master's degree from Texas Women's University, a Certification in Nurse Midwifery from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, a PhD from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, and she brings decades of varied expertise in nursing and teaching to the role.

"Working in healthcare, two things become clear," Schorn explained. "First, everyone works together. Nobody can provide care in isolation. And second, our education is very separate. The students must learn to work together in teams before they go into practice. It makes for better healthcare."



**IPE Co-Director:**  
**Regina Stokes Offodile, MD**

**Regina Stokes Offodile, MD** became Meharry's Co-Director for the Interprofessional and Inter-Institutional Collaborative in September

2017. She earned her master's in Health Professions Education and in Management of Healthcare from

Vanderbilt University. Additionally, she completed a Surgical Residency at King/Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, a Breast Oncology Fellowship at Stanford University, and a Preventive Medicine Residency at Meharry Medical College, and she was certified as a Healthcare Simulation Educator with the Society of Simulation in Healthcare.

Offodile is an Associate Professor of Medical Education at MMC in the Department of Professional and Medical Education and Director of the Pamela C. Williams Simulation and Clinical Skills Center.

"This role will further my mission to participate in the education of the next generations of medical professionals," she said. "It is an honor to contribute to preparing and training these future healthcare providers."

*"It is important to the future of health, the future of well-being in general, that we learn how to be teams as we take care of individuals."*

– Consuelo H. Wilkins

## 2014 Faculty Collaborative

Left to right:

Sandra Rosedale, RN, MSN  
Belmont University School of Nursing

Beth Hallmark, PhD, MSN  
Belmont University

Leah Alexander, PhD

Meharry Medical College School of Graduate Studies and Research

Graham Reside, PhD, M.Div  
Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Elizabeth W. Robinson, M.Ed, RN, LDN  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Vicki Gardine Williams, ACSW, LAPSW  
Tennessee State University

Kathy Chappell, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN  
American Nurses Credentialing Center

Rebecca Moore, PhD, LMSW  
Tennessee State University

Chad Gentry, PharmD, BCACP, CDE  
Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy

Karyn Baum, MD, MSED  
University of Minnesota

Bridget O'Brien, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI  
Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

Mavis Schorn, CNM, PhD, FACNM  
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing

Gerald Davis II, DDS  
Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry

Ruth Garrett, PhD  
Meharry Medical College School of Medicine

# STUDENT COLLABORATIONS

*A model of independent, student-driven inter-professional collaboration offering opportunities for students across institutions to connect with community partners, work together and share institutional resources to improve community health.*

## MEHARRY-VANDERBILT STUDENT ALLIANCE

### Education Activities

#### Summer Movies

##### Escape Fire

The Vanderbilt chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) was contacted by the producers of the film *Escape Fire* for an advance screening ahead of the nationwide release in October 2012. Vanderbilt and MMC students saw this screening as an opportunity to do a joint event. The MVA hosted the event, with more than 250 students and faculty participating.

##### The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

This moving story of a man whose life is changed in the blink of an eye was released in 2007. Guest lecturers from MMC and Vanderbilt University engaged in a brief discussion after a summer screening sponsored by the AMSA, the MVA and Meharry's Student Interest Group in Neurology.

#### Work-Life Balance

In November 2013, the Meharry-Vanderbilt Student Alliance (MVSA) hosted an educational seminar discussing the importance of work-life balance. Panelists consisted of three couples who shared their experiences and answered questions posed by students in attendance.

#### Community Service

##### Community Tree Planting

In conjunction with the Tennessee Environmental Council, MVSA and 100 KINGS (a youth program of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee) helped plant over 100 trees in Whites Creek, Tennessee. The Tennessee Environmental Council demonstrated how to correctly plant trees so that roots stabilize the trees and effectively extract the excess water from the soil.

##### Angel Tree Program

The MVSA met at the Salvation Army warehouse to sort and fill bags with holiday gifts for children of all



Meharry Dental student and MVSA Co-President Terry Lyles, Vanderbilt School of Medicine student Lauren Slesar, and George Hill, PhD, Emeritus Medical Faculty Office at Community Day

ages. Based on the child's wants and needs identified on his or her registration card, toys and clothes were chosen from the immense inventory on hand.

##### Second Harvest

In February 2016, the MVSA, along with Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee and Vanderbilt VOISCE (Vanderbilt Organization for Interdisciplinary Student Community Engagement), hosted a Community Day at Divine Art Cafe & Toffee Art Cafe in East Nashville. The volunteers sorted more than 4,000 lbs. of food and water and directly donated over 55 lbs. of canned goods that was provided to food shelters throughout Middle Tennessee.

##### Community Day

The MVSA and Vanderbilt VOISCE hosted a Community



Day in February 2016 with members donating time from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, and Vanderbilt University Law School to assist with oral health kits, health screenings, and community legal sources

#### Social Activities

##### Soccer Exhibition

Students from Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University gathered in October 2016 for a soccer exhibition at the Vanderbilt Fieldhouse. The game—which was organized by Adam Evans, a medical student at Meharry,



Left: Sponsored by the MVSA, the "Whose Central Line Is It Anyway?" variety show was held at Vanderbilt University's Sarratt Student Center.

Above: Students from Meharry and Vanderbilt met at Vanderbilt Fieldhouse for a soccer exhibition between the institutions.

and David Tovar, an MD/PhD student at Vanderbilt—sought to increase interactions between the schools.

##### Whose Central Line Is It Anyway?

Held in February 2017, "Whose Central Line Is It Anyway?" centered around a series of game show competitions between academic years, with teams comprised of students from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine MD Program and students from the Meharry Medical College MD and Dentistry Programs. Games included Family Feud and Jimmy Fallon's famous Egg Russian Roulette.

##### Back-to-School Picnic

The importance of networking was the central theme at the Meharry-Vanderbilt Student Alliance's annual Back-

to-School Picnic in September 2015. MVSA President Terry Lyles told everyone gathered at Nashville's Centennial Park, "Regardless of profession, it's important to know different people in different fields of life."

*"Regardless of profession, it's important to know different people in different fields of life."*

—Terry Lyles  
Meharry Dental student and MVSA Co-President

# STUDENT RESEARCH



Toronto, Canada, native Ryan Ber interned with the MVA during the summer of 2015. Cha'koya Smith, originally from Wrightsville, AR, interned during the fall of 2016.



As part of their work with the CERC Community Scholars program, Josh Cockcroft worked with The Next Door, Robert Marx, MA, MS worked with the Oasis Center, Theodore Limerick worked with the Nashville YWCA.



## Student Internships

The MVA offers student internships, allowing students to contribute to the Alliance's ongoing mission to enrich learning and advance clinical research through partnerships among MMC, VUMC, and the communities they serve. Through the years, their interests have ranged from health to education, and their contributions have included presentations accepted by research and medical conferences.

**Ryan Ber** interned with the MVA during the summer of 2015. The Toronto, Canada, native aspired to become a primary care physician, and later that year, his submission "Assessing the Impact of Health Literacy, Numeracy and Race on Willingness to Participate in Biomedical Research" was accepted for an oral presentation at the Health Literacy Research Conference.

**Cha'koya Smith**, originally from Wrightsville, AR, interned with the MVA in the fall of 2016 after learning about its efforts with the community. The following year,

her poster presentation "Examining E-Cigarette Use, Adequate Sleep and Screen Media Use as Risk Factors for Youth Violence in Tennessee" placed first at Meharry Medical College's Student Research Day.

## Community Scholars

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core (CERC) Community Scholars program enables the graduate trainees to spend a year developing their skills as community engaged researchers, and they are required to conduct a community-engaged research project with a community partner during the academic year.

**Josh Cockcroft**, a fourth-year medical student at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, worked with The Next Door to examine how the role of trust in healthcare systems and providers affects healthcare utilization in women with a history of substance abuse who seek substance abuse treatment in a community setting.

**Robert Marx, MA, MS** conducted participatory action research with LGBTQ adolescents through a partnership

with the Oasis Center. The fourth-year doctoral student from Peabody College worked to create a student-led documentary film starring, produced, directed and edited by trans and gender non-conforming youth of color.

**Theodore Limerick**, a second year dental student at Meharry School of Dentistry, worked with the Nashville YWCA investigating how dentistry can prevent or stop domestic violence.

*"There's so much more to healthcare than just being a physician, and you don't have to be a doctor to make an impact."*

—Cha'koya Smith, MVA intern

## Vanderbilt Mentors and Meharry Medical Students

The Student/Faculty Research Program gives first-year Meharry students the opportunity to participate in a collaborative research effort with Meharry faculty, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance faculty or a faculty member at another medical school. The student and mentor are encouraged to design research such that an abstract and a manuscript for publication by a peer-reviewed journal will be generated.



## Student Faculty Research Program Summer 2017

Faculty Mentors	Meharry 1st-Year Students
Natasha Halasa	Saresh Akmal
Robert Cronin/Michael DeBaun	Whitney Allen
Jeffrey Nyman	Chidi Amah
Ann Richmond	Kevin Black
Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel	Dajah Chase*
Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel	Johnathan Cooks
Deb Friedman	Sky Dainty
Pam Hull	Alexis Donald
Pam Hull	Whitney Hucks*
Bob Matusik	Ifeanyi Ikwuanusi*
Deb Friedman	Bathsheba Wariso
Michael Vaezi	Aaron Yazdian
Christine Lovly/Karinna Almodavar	Miguel Carpio
Carlos Arteaga/Ariella Hanker	Justin King
Zachary Warren	Brittany Landry
Jen Gaddy	Andrew Nunn
Kim Sandler	Bisola Salisu
Shaina Johnson	Jodi-Anne Stewart
Scott Zuckerman	Andrew Youssef
David G. Harrison/Liang Xiao	Lucas Carver
Benjamin Hornsby	Yvan James*
Stacy Stark	Prince Eleeh*
William Obremsky	Ebubechi Okwumabua
Daniel Claassen	Jacqueline Reid
Daniel Fabbri	Devin Rickard
Jennifer Sucre	Haley Marks
Jeffrey E. Martus	Toluwalashe Onamus
Matthew Danter	

\* photo not available

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

The MVA partners with numerous community partners throughout the Nashville area on research, education and community engagement efforts. The following are highlights of just some of the organizations and individuals who've collaborated with the MVA.

**Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee**  
Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee (MHAMT), founded in 1946, connects the community with specialized mental health resources, provides services that improve quality of life, and promotes effective services where mental health needs exist.

As part of a recent grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Tom Starling, President and CEO of MHAMT, and his organization hope to disseminate information and support research, prevention, treatments, and cures for mental illness—efforts that led to a partnership with the MVA after having served with the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee since 2009. The MVA's community engagement pillar, led by Elisa Friedman, was "immensely helpful," said Starling, as was the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community-Engaged Research Core.

**Nashville REACH 2020**  
MMC's Nashville REACH 2020 is a community health initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sam McCullough and Taylyn Lewis, community organizers for REACH (an acronym for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health), hope to combat the reality of food deserts by bringing fresh produce via the Mobile Market to food desert communities with an emphasis on 37207, 37208, and portions



of 37209 zip codes.

The Mobile Market, hosted every Tuesday by Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center and Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, offers fresh fruits and vegetables grown by Barbour's Farm in Southern Kentucky.

### Worker's Dignity

The primary goal of Workers' Dignity, a worker-led organization battling wage theft and systemic abuse against low-wage workers, is to educate workers about



*Left: Diana Lopez, organizer and coordinator of the Workers' Dignity "Just Hospitality" campaign, and Jack Willey, from Operations, take part in the organization's ongoing effort to improve conditions for low-wage workers in Nashville*

*Above: Community Organizers Taylyn Lewis and Samuel McCullough and REACH 2020 Director Linda McClellan at a Mobile Market at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry*

their rights and establish firm consequences for employers who take advantage of them.

The MVA awarded Workers' Dignity a \$5,000 grant to fund data collection from rank-and-file low-wage hospitality workers. In February 2016, a preliminary report was published detailing instances of declining wages and wage theft, poor safety practices and high injury levels, and obstacles to personal and family healthcare. Data in the report came from interviews with 52 people employed throughout Nashville as hospitality workers.

*"Community-engaged research is an important approach because engaging community stakeholders will contribute to the reduction of racial and ethnic health disparities negatively affecting our communities."*

—Juan Canedo, DHS

### Juan Canedo, DHS

Juan Canedo, an Hispanic immigrant from Bolivia, South America, and Nashville resident for 20 years, holds a master's degree in sociology, a doctoral degree in health sciences, and is an advocate on issues affecting the well-being of the community. His emphasis is on empowering Hispanic immigrants through English-language, computer skill acquisition, and access to healthcare.

In March 2016 he joined MMC as a postdoctoral research fellow for the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core. Canedo and Dr. Pam Hull (VUMC) were awarded an MVA 15-Year Anniversary grant to pilot a study to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate information to the Hispanic community about the TDAP, HPV and meningitis vaccines for pre-adolescents.

### Kimberly Jackson, HIDE

Kimberly Jackson, founder and sole proprietor of HIDE (Health Impacts of Degraded Environments), has always been interested in public policy and urban planning. HIDE was the direct result of her research at Lipscomb Academy where she studied environmental justice, specifically targeting disparate rates of asthma in public

housing and earning a masters degree in environmental sustainability.

Jackson engages in partnerships with the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College and non-profit organizations in the area.

"Environment equity consulting is what I do," she explained. "Targeting environmental exposure – mainly indoor, but also outdoor – and the effects on health."

### Neely Williams, MDiv

Throughout her life, community has been the primary focus of Rev. Neely Williams. She became a minister in 1990, completed chaplaincy training in 1998, and currently serves as Assistant Pastor of the Community at New Unity Church.

Williams' background includes a lineup of public service groups centered on a variety of social issues. She served as the Program Director and Coordinator of the First Response Wellness Center of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville and worked with the



*Left to right: Neely Williams, MDiv, minister and public service advocate; Juan Canedo, DHS, MA, advocate on issues affecting the community; Kimberly Jackson, MS, Founder and sole proprietor of HIDE*

Imani Coalition, UJIMA House, the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship Peniel Initiative, and the Obesity Observational Research Initiative.

Williams became involved with the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance while working on an advisory board for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) grant, which sought to promote educational and research activities to enhance the translation of research findings to clinics and, ultimately, back to patients and the community in terms of best practices and prevention. She also serves on the MVA's Faith and Health Collaborative.

"The MVA served a supportive role for me," Williams said. "There are multiple components to the grant, including education, the development of optimal therapeutics, informatics, biostatistics, industry relations, design and evaluation methods, research ethics, community engagement, and novel clinical and translational methodologies."

# Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research

# CEnR

## ADVANCING COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH CONFERENCE

All too often, community and research are disconnected. Clinical studies move forward with little to no input from the populations they impact, and local voices are left out of the conversation.

The Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research (CEnR) Conference – held at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Washington, D.C. – intends to change that.

Meharry Medical College (MMC) and Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) hosted the conference in 2016 and 2017, providing a forum for Community Health Workers (CHWs), clergy, advocates and other community stakeholders to meet with medical researchers on a national platform.

Learning Labs and Think Tank Discussions served as “how to” breakout sessions, delivering practical guides about CEnR approaches. Topics ranged from partnering with Community Health Workers in research, to using CEnR for health equity, to engaging underrepresented groups.

Over 200 attended both conferences, which empowered community stakeholders to interact and work with researchers.

*“The conference provided research teams, populated by both researchers and community members, opportunities to engage and explore community engaged research strategies and programs.”*

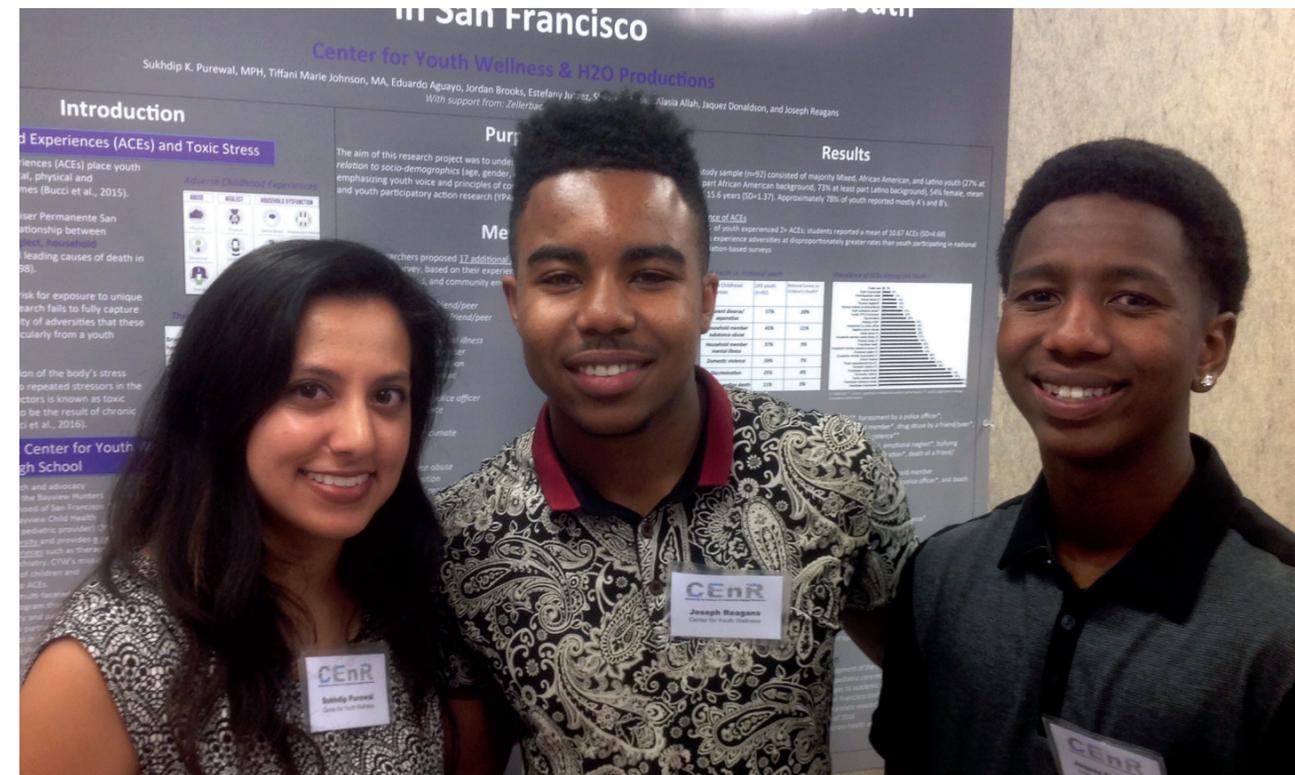
–Milton “Mickey” Eder, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Medical School, University of Minnesota  
Associate Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute  
Director, Office of Community Engagement to Advance Research and Community Health

*“This conference succeeded in refueling my passion for community-based participatory research to find better ways of assisting in the care of disenfranchised and underserved populations.”*

–Geraldine Peacock, Apostolic Faith Church, Chicago, IL

*“I was grateful to be part of the dialogue made possible by MMC and VUMC.”*

–Jason Resendez  
Director, US Alzheimer’s Latino Network



Top Right: Jo Handelsman, PhD, Associate Director for Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, spoke during a special session at the 2016 CEnR Conference

Top left: Sukhdip Purewal, Joseph Reagens, and Jaquez Donaldson, of the Center for Youth Wellness, presented “Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Teenage Youth in San Francisco” at the 2016 CEnR Conference

Left: National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Director Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD meets with Community Scholars from faith-based associations, advocacy organizations and more during the Advancing CEnR 2017 Conference.”

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI**, is a physician, biomedical researcher and Executive Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance. Dr. Wilkins holds faculty appointments as Associate Professor of Medicine at both VUMC and MMC and is widely recognized for her innovative work in community-engaged research.

Dr. Wilkins is the Principal Investigator (PI) of more than \$25 million in research awards including funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). She pioneered methods of stakeholder engagement that involve community members and patients in research across the translational spectrum. The Community Engagement Studio is one approach that was recently scaled to engage more than 650 community members across 12 states in 77 face-to-face consultations for the Precision Medicine Initiative Pilot.

Engaging communities in research is a key strategy in Dr. Wilkins' health equity research and is deeply embedded in her work as a PI of two NIH-funded centers: the Precision Medicine and Health Disparities Collaborative, which focuses on decreasing disparities among African Americans and Latinos using precision medicine, and the Vanderbilt Recruitment Innovation Center, a CTSA-wide center dedicated to enhancing recruitment and retention in clinical trials.

As leader of the MVA Dr. Wilkins oversees a portfolio of cross-institutional initiatives in three pillars: community health and engagement, translational research, and interprofessional education. Dr. Wilkins serves in leadership roles in the community including on the Board of the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee and the Steering Committee for Nashville Health.

Principal Investigator of a research portfolio of more than \$25 million in research awards

Contributed to 34 examples of health disparities literature and overall science focusing on African Americans and their health outcomes

Serves on eight National Leadership Committees including the National Institutes of Health, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and Neurological, Aging, and Musculoskeletal Epidemiology Study Section

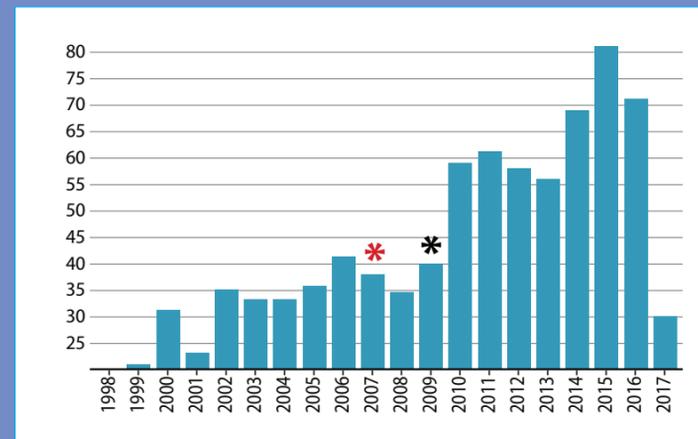


Dr. Wilkins speaks with MVSA Co-President Christopher Hardy at the MVSA's annual Back-to-School Picnic

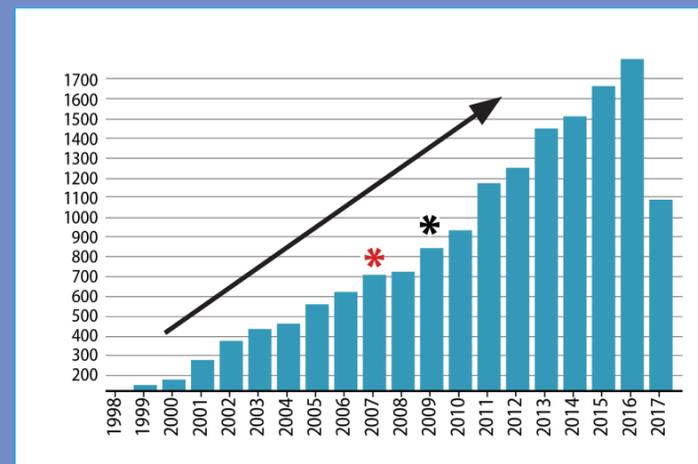
# JOINT PUBLICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

## Meharry and Vanderbilt Co-Authored Publications

Co-Authored Publications per Year  
1998-July 2017



Co-Authored Citations per Year  
1998-July 2017



\* CTSA Funded  
\* MeTRC Funded

\* Web of Science – accessed July 31, 2017

# 30,000

Average Monthly Maximum Website Visits to [meharry-vanderbilt.org](http://meharry-vanderbilt.org)

## Social Media Presence Followers on Facebook and Twitter



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**The Alliance will enrich learning and advance clinical research by developing and supporting mutually beneficial partnerships between Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and the communities they serve.**

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