

# Center for Cancer Health Equity: Reorganization, Current Programs and Initiatives Cancer Equity Leaders

*Sanya A. Springfield, PhD*

# Agenda



## Center Reorganization: CRCHD to CCHE



## Programs and Initiatives

Diversity Training and Biomedical Workforce Development

Disparities Research

Community Outreach, Research, and Engagement

Innovative Programs

NCI- and NIH-Wide Programs and External Partnerships



## Introducing the Cancer Equity Leaders

# Center Reorganization

## ★ New Name!

Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)



Center for Cancer Health Equity (CCHE)

### Why the change?

- More accurate reflection
- Timing was right
- Lead by example

**Announcement  
Timing:** July 2024

# Center for Cancer Health Equity (CCHE)

## Mission

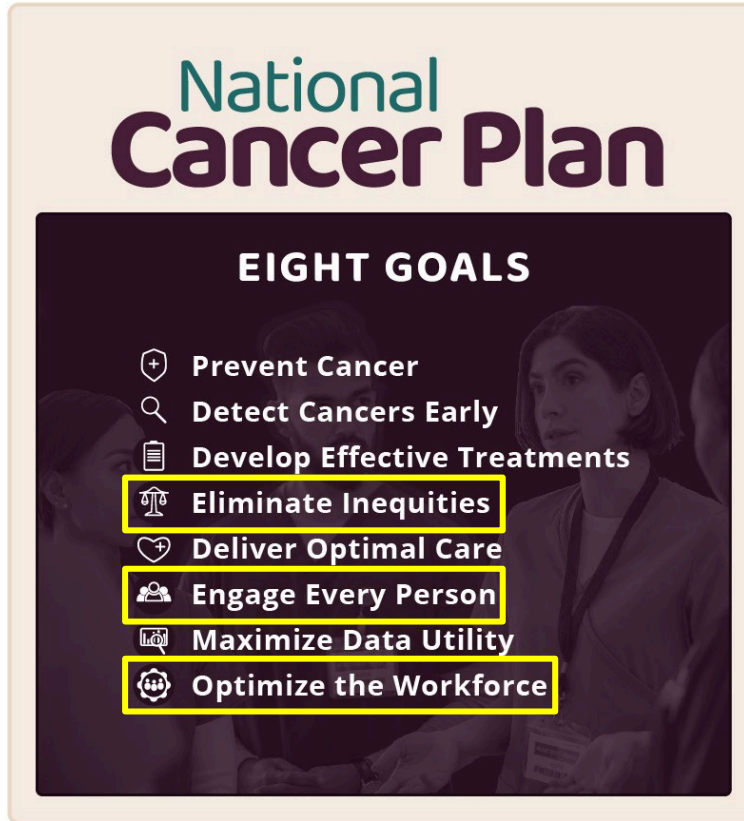
CCHE strives to achieve health equity by working towards eliminating health disparities, advancing inclusive research across basic, clinical, translational, and population-based studies, promoting a diverse workforce, and enhancing community engagement.

## Vision

***Eliminate Cancer Health Disparities  
and Achieve Cancer Health Equity***



# Advancing the National Cancer Plan



- **Eliminate Inequities:** Eliminates disparities in cancer risk factors, incidence, treatment side effects, and mortality through equitable access to prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship care
- **Engage Every Person:** Every person with cancer or at risk for cancer has an opportunity to participate in research or otherwise contribute to the collective knowledge base, and barriers to their participation are eliminated.
- **Optimize the Workforce:** The cancer care and research workforce is diverse, reflects the communities served, and meets the needs of all people with cancer or at risk of cancer

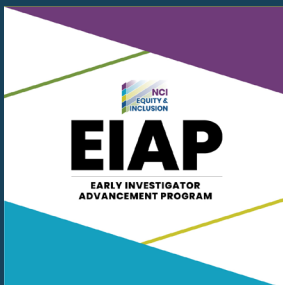
Read the plan: [nationalcancerplan.cancer.gov](https://nationalcancerplan.cancer.gov)

# Our Work Continues

## Diversity Training



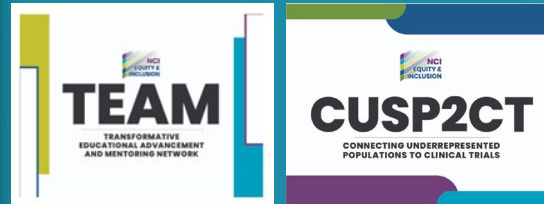
## Workforce Diversity



## Partnerships

- Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

## Networks



## Disparities Research

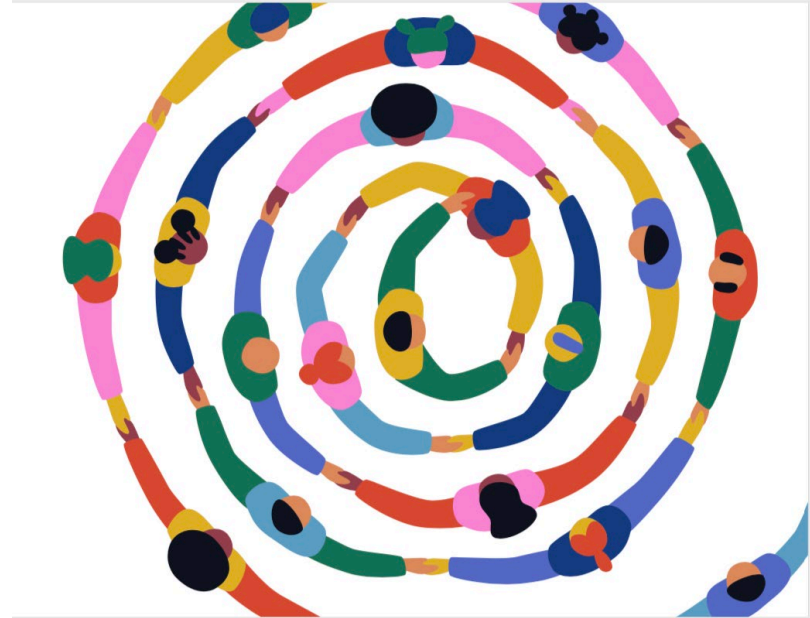
- Basic research
- Translational research
- Expanding beyond





# Community Outreach, Research and Engagement Branch (CORE) Branch Director: LeeAnn Bailey

CORE seeks to explore strategies for equitable participation in underserved communities to support engagement, bi-directional communication, and community-engaged cancer disparities research. Further, the branch endeavors to foster cancer education, outreach, partnership, and dissemination efforts.





# CUSP2CT Purpose and Objectives

**Purpose:** To implement and evaluate multi-level and culturally tailored outreach and education interventions with the primary goal to increase referral of racial/ethnic (R/E) minority populations to NCI-supported clinical trials.

## CUSP2CT Network

Data, Evaluation, and Coordinating Center (U24)



### “Integrated Network”

The CUSP2CT Network is composed of a Data, Evaluation, and Coordinating Center (DECC), which connects and coordinates the grantee sites (U01).

# Transformative Educational Advancement and Mentoring Network (TEAM) Goals and Objectives

The purpose of TEAM is to pilot test the use of training champions (TCs) at MSIs, to provide education and career development navigation for underrepresented scholars.



**Objective 1:** Pilot the use of TCs to provide education and career development support to increase awareness and readiness among an identified scholar group



**Objective 2:** Leverage TCs and institutional support to connect the potential scholar group with mentoring and networking opportunities



**Objective 3:** Adapt or leverage culturally tailored educational activities, short courses, grant review, and resources that enhance subject matter expertise and professional career development.

# Collaborative Research Supplements

**The FOA seeks to catalyze and broaden research and collaborations across the Cancer Health Disparities (CHD) spectrum.**

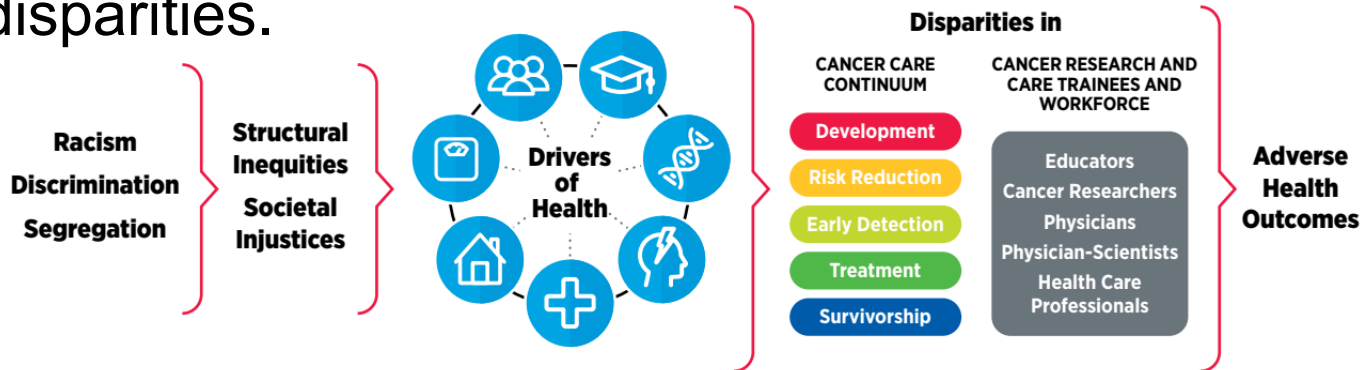
## Primary Objectives

- Promote new cancer health disparities (CHD) research and collaborations
- Envisioned to accelerate and strengthen multidisciplinary cancer disparities research
- Increase the number and competitiveness of CHD-related grant proposals submitted to the NCI

# Disparities Research Branch (DRB)

## Branch Director: Tiffany Wallace

Health equity is an aspirational goal, whereby all people experience similar health outcomes regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood, or other disadvantaging social and structural determinants of health. DRB seeks to promote this goal through the development and implementation of research initiatives designed to address cancer disparities.



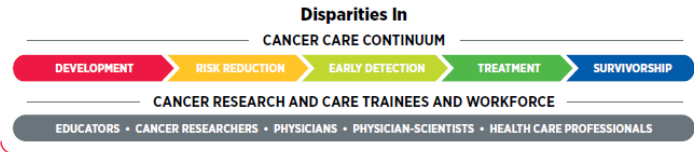
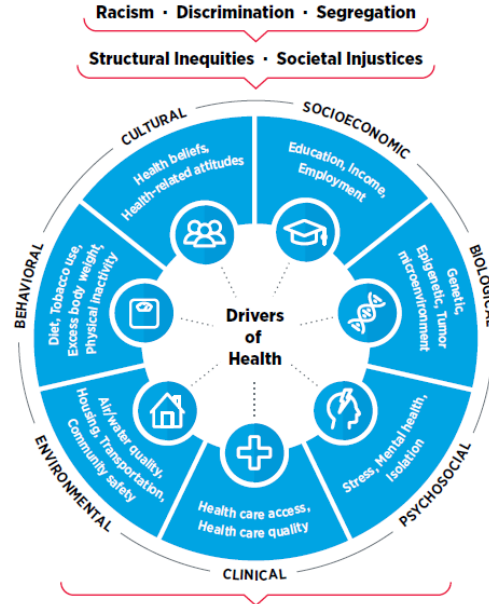
# Disparities Research Initiatives Span Numerous Disciplines

## Basic Research

- Basic Research in Cancer Health Disparities (*R03, R21, R01*)
- Basic/Translational Research on Health Disparities in Underrepresented People Living with HIV and Cancer (*R21, R01*)
- Integrating Health Disparities into Immuno-Oncology (HDIO) (*P20*)

## Social Science

- Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) and Quality of Care Contributors to Cancer
- Disparities in People with HIV (*U01*) *Pending review tomorrow*



Adverse Health Outcomes

## Translational/Clinical Research

- NCI Clinical and Translational Exploratory/ Developmental Studies (*R21*)
- Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) (*P20, P50*)
- PDX Development and Trial Centers Research Network (PDXNet) (*U54, U24*)
- Connecting Underserved Populations to Clinical Trials (CUSP2CT) (*U01, U24*)

## Transdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Research

- Admin Supplements to Support Cancer Disparity Collaborative Research

# Diversity Training and Biomedical Workforce Development Branch (DTBWDB)

## Branch Director: Behrouz Davani

NCI is committed to training and developing a strong and diverse workforce of cancer researchers. The DTBWDB supports and administers programs and initiatives to develop a diverse pool of cancer researchers. These include fellowships, research career development awards, and cancer education grants for students and scientists at all career levels.

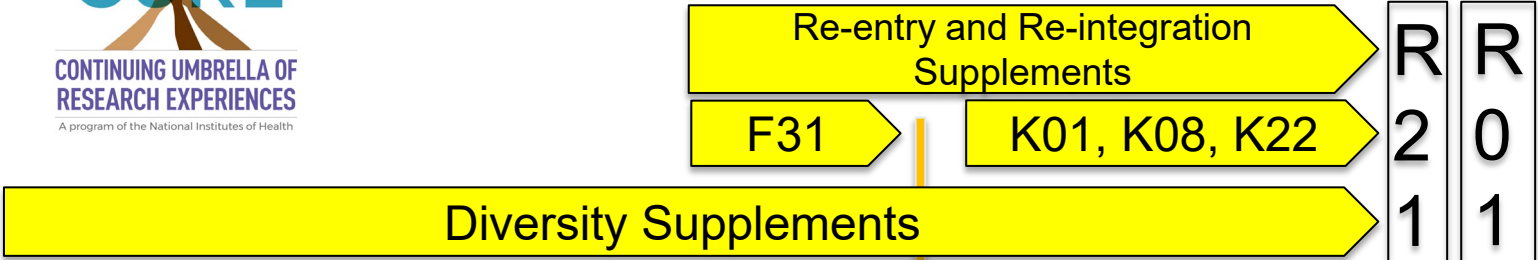




CONTINUING UMBRELLA OF  
RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

A program of the National Institutes of Health

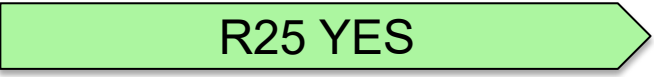
Individual  
Awards



R	R
2	0
1	1



Institutional  
Awards



- \* AACR Travel Awards:
  - URM Scholars
  - URM Faculty
  - AACR Cancer Health Disparities Conference

# CURE Funding Opportunities Are Vehicles for Career Independence

## Goal

R01, Scientific  
Independence &  
Self-Sustainability

### R21

Supports eligible investigators to  
conduct research projects focused  
on the basic biology of cancer.

### K01, K08, K22

Promote mentored or non-mentored  
career development  
activities towards  
research independence

### F31

Supports mentored research  
training leading to a PhD  
or MD/PhD degree

### R25 YES

Supports cancer research  
& educational activities for middle  
school and high school students and  
their teachers

### Diversity Supplement

A bridge  
for candidates  
to progress to  
the next career  
level  
Undergrad thru  
ESI

Acquire research  
skills

Publish

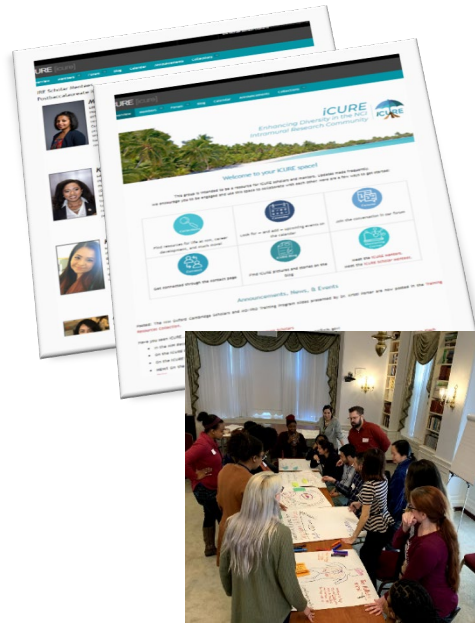
Write grants

Network

Present your  
scientific data



# Successful Diversity Training Program: CURE Provides an Ecosystem of Support



# CURE Awardee Highlights



K08, K23, & R21



**Dr. John H. Stewart**  
Chair, Department of Surgery  
Associate Dean for  
Oncological Programs  
Morehouse School of  
Medicine  
Chief of Surgery  
Morehouse School of  
Medicine at Grady Health  
System

K08, K22, R21, & R01



**Dr. Robert A. Winn**  
Director and Lipman Chair in  
Oncology, VCU Massey  
Cancer Center, Senior  
Associate Dean for Cancer  
Innovation and Professor of  
Pulmonary Disease and Critical  
Care Medicine, VCU School of  
Medicine

Diversity  
Supplement and R01



**Dr. Lauren E.  
McCullough**  
Associate Professor of  
Epidemiology, Rollins  
School of Public Health,  
Emory University  
Visiting Scientific Director,  
American Cancer Society

F31



**Dr. Troy McEachron**  
Principal Investigator  
NCI

K08 and R01



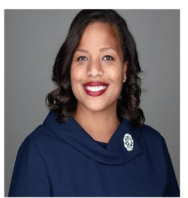
**Dr. Eduardo M. Sotomayor**  
Director of Tampa General  
Hospital Cancer Institute

K22 and R21



**Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa**  
Executive Director and  
Investigator, University of  
Puerto Rico Comprehensive  
Cancer Center  
Professor of Medicine &  
Biochemistry, University of  
Puerto Rico Medical Sciences  
Campus

K01 and two R01s



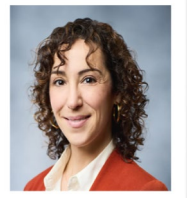
**Dr. Tiffany Carson**  
Department of Health  
Outcomes and Behavior,  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer  
Center & Research  
Institute

K01



**Dr. Chyke Doubeni**  
Chief Health Equity Officer  
Professor, Department of Family  
and Community Medicine  
The Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center; National  
Cancer Advisor Board

K01 and five R01s



**Dr. Elizabeth Cespedes  
Feliciano**  
Research Scientist, Kaiser  
Permanente Northern  
California Division

K01 and three R01s



**Dr. Adana Llanos**  
Associate Professor of  
Epidemiology,  
Columbia University  
Irving Medical Center

K23



**Dr. Taofeek Owonikoko**  
Director of the University of  
Maryland Greenebaum  
Comprehensive Cancer  
Center

# CRCHD Grantees Thrive

**Four former CURE K01 scholars** spoke together at the 15th American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, 2022. **These CURE scholars have earned a combined 10 R01s.**



**Left to Right:**

- **Dr. Tyvette Hillard**, Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame
- **Dr. Tiffany Carson (K01 and 2 R01 awards)**, Department of Health Outcomes and Behavior, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
- **Dr. Sanya Springfield (CRCHD Director)**
- **Dr. Elizabeth Cespedes Feliciano (K01 award and 5 R01 awards)**, Research Scientist at Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division
- **Dr. Adana Llanos (K01 awardee and 3 R01 awards)**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center

# Innovative Programs Branch (IPB) Acting Branch Director: Nelson Aguila

IPB accelerates innovative approaches towards eliminating health disparities by developing and implementing programs, including a focus on enhancing cancer research capacity; leading efforts to integrate cancer research and training expertise; and working across CCHE, NCI, and NIH to lead coordination of initiatives aimed at achieving cancer health equity.



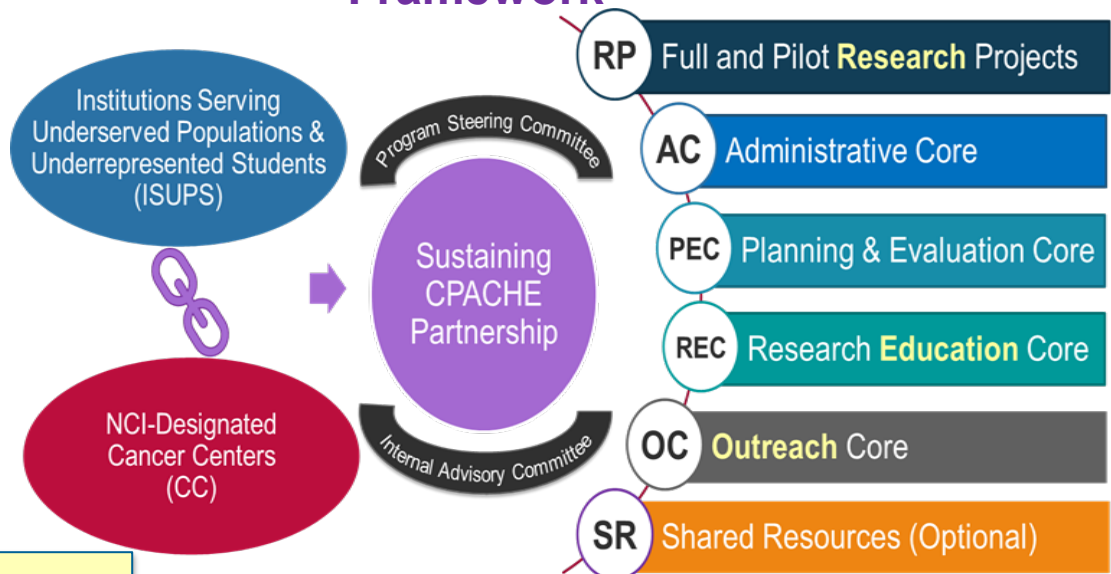
# Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

**Purpose:** Develop and maintain comprehensive, long-term, and mutually beneficial partnerships between NCI-Designated Cancer Centers (CCs) and institutions serving underserved populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS).

## Objectives

- ❖ Increase participation of ISUPS in cancer research and research education.
- ❖ Increase CC's involvement in cancer health disparities (CHD) research.
- ❖ Produce more competitive grant applications from scientists from diverse backgrounds.
- ❖ Develop more effective outreach and education for underserved communities.

## Framework



Contact  
Dr. Sandra San Miguel  
[sandra.sanmiguel@nih.gov](mailto:sandra.sanmiguel@nih.gov)





# Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

## iCURE Goals:

- Enhance research workforce diversity at NCI
- Promote career advancement of scholars
- Foster an inclusive environment in the NCI intramural community



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Enhancing Diversity  
in the NCI Intramural  
Research Community

# iCURE Supports Research Experiences at All Three NCI Campuses

- Supports mentored research experiences for students and scientists from diverse backgrounds on NCI campuses in Bethesda, Rockville and Frederick, Maryland
- Supports **postbacs** (2 years), **graduate students** (2 years) and **postdocs** (3 years)
- Applications open in the fall each year. For research experiences beginning Fall 2025, continue to check the [iCURE website](#) for details on how and when to apply in the future.
- Centralized review and program-facilitated matches for scholars to NCI PIs; **applicants do not need to pre-identify a PI to apply**
- iCURE strongly encourages the participation of individuals from underrepresented populations and is aligned with NCI's interest in diversity and the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)).



<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/icure>

# iCURE Scholars Thrive



iCURE celebrated the transition of the program's largest group of scholars since it launched in 2018 — more than 20 scholars moved on to new career trainings and job opportunities. Two scholars transitioned to PhD and MD-PhD programs, respectively, at Stanford University.



# Cancer Moonshot Scholars: Purpose, Goals, and Status

This funding opportunity started in Fiscal Year 2023 and aligns with the priorities identified by the White House Cancer Cabinet to inspire and support the next generation of diverse cancer researchers.

## Goals

- Promote scientific advances in cancer research by increasing diversity of thought and perspective
- Support Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs) from diverse backgrounds
- Increase the number of funded R01 investigators from diverse backgrounds across the cancer research continuum

## Status

- Completed all three receipt dates
- White House announced first cohort of scholars in August 2023
- Second cohort of scholars will be announced in near future
- Third and final cohort of scholars will be announced in Fall 2024



<https://cancer.gov/moonshotscholars>



# First 11 Cancer Moonshot Scholars

Left to Right, Top to Bottom



**Simpa Salami, MD, MPH**, University of Michigan

**Laurie McLouth, PhD**, University of Kentucky

**Leeya Pinder, MD, MPH, FACOG**, University of Cincinnati

**Jelani C. Zarif, PhD, MS**, Johns Hopkins University

**Matthew A. Triplette, MD, PhD**, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**Todd Aguilera, MD, PhD**, UT Southwestern Medical Center

**Hien Dang, PhD**, Thomas Jefferson University

**Mario Shields, PhD**, Northwestern University at Chicago

**Jyothi Menon, PhD**, University of Rhode Island

**Marvin Langston, PhD, MPH**, Stanford University

**Nduka Amankulor, MD**, University of Pennsylvania

# Cancer Moonshot Scholars Participate in White House Event

## American Possibilities: A White House Demo Day

November 7, 2023



Dr. Marvin Langston, Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, Dr. Laurie McLouth, Dr. Leeya Pinder, and Dr. Sanya A. Springfield.



Dr. Arati Prabhakar with Dr. Langston, Dr. McLouth, and Dr. Pinder.



Dr. Pinder, Dr. Danielle Carnival, Dr. Langston, and Dr. McLouth.

# CRCHD Trans-NCI CHD WG Participation

- Co-Lead/Participation on each of the NCI Equity and Inclusion Program WGs
- Trans-NCI Cancer Disparities Activities Committee
- Trans-NCI Cancer, Obesity and Cancer Health Disparities WG
- Trans-NCI Microbiome WG
- Trans-NIH Resilience WG
- Trans-NCI AAPI-HSIG WG
- NCI Cancer Health Disparity Interest Group, NCI (Led by the Center for Cancer Research)
- Transformative Health Disparities Research Working Group, (Led by the NIH Common Fund)



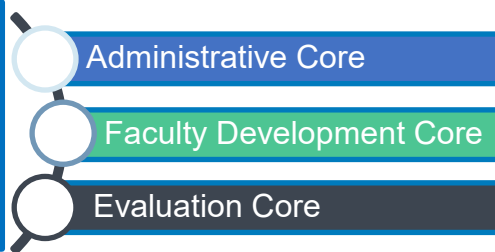
# NIH Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program



# NIH FIRST Program Updates

**Goal:** Create cultures of inclusive excellence (establishing and maintaining scientific environments that can cultivate and benefit from a full range of talent) at NIH-funded institutions.

**Faculty Cohort Program** for hiring, multi-level mentoring, professional development. At these Cohort awardee institutions, implement and sustain cultures of inclusive excellence.  
**U54, Managed by NCI**



**Coordination & Evaluation Center (CEC):** coordinate and facilitate development of strategies with FIRST Cohort awardees to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the FIRST program.

**U24, Awarded to Morehouse School of Medicine; Managed by NIMHD**

RFA	Details	Awards
<a href="#">RFA-RM-20-022</a>	FY21	Six (6) made; Cornell, <b>Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai,* San Diego State University,*</b> Florida State University, Drexel University, <b>University of Alabama at Birmingham-Tuskegee University*</b>
<a href="#">RFA-RM-21-025</a>	FY22	Five (5) made: University of South Carolina at Columbia, <b>University of California, San Diego,*</b> University of New Mexico, <b>University of Maryland Baltimore-University of Maryland School of Medicine,*</b> Northwestern University at Chicago*
<a href="#">RFA-RM-22-008</a>	FY23	Four (4) made: <b>University of Michigan at Ann Arbor,*</b> University of Texas El Paso,* Vanderbilt University Medical Center, <b>University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*</b>

**\*Hiring clusters include Cancer**

# Partnership with American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

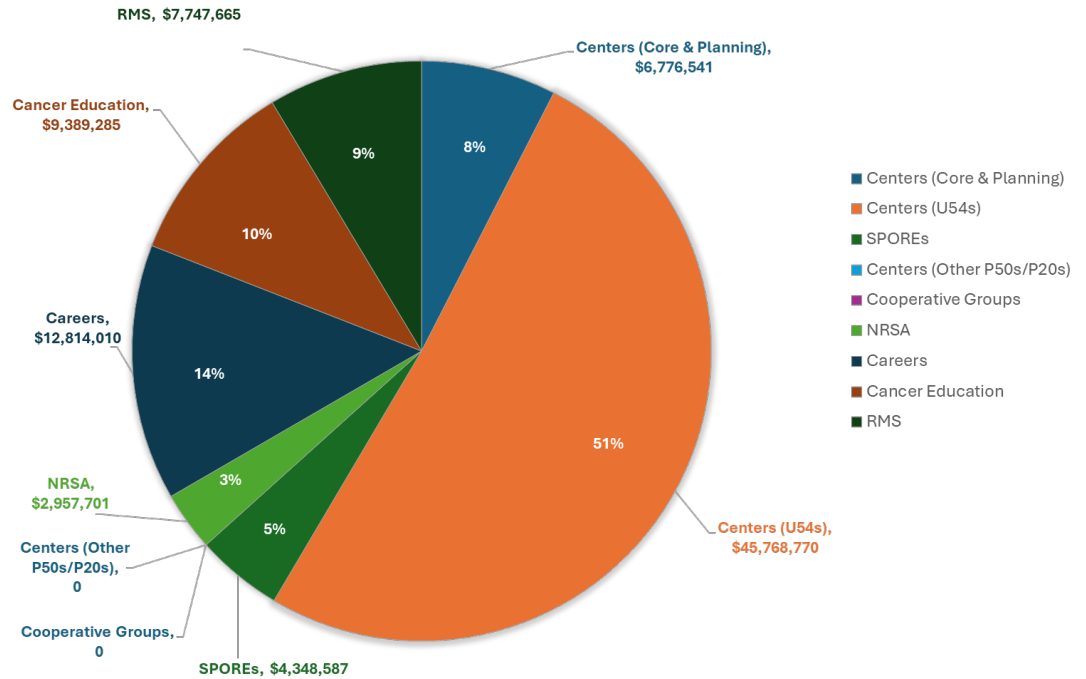
- 1999: AACR Travel Grants
  - Students and investigators to attend AACR and Cancer Health Disparities conferences (R13 Grants)
  - Early-stage meritorious scientists
  - **These grants have supported an estimated 2,200+ scholars over more than two decades**
- 2000: Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) membership group established. **7,000+ members**
- 2007: First AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities (CHD) in Racial/Ethnic (R/E) Minorities and the Medically Underserved. **Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year. CRCHD has co-sponsored this conference since its inception.**
- 2020: Published three iterations of ***AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report*** since 2020.



From left to right, Dr. Robert Winn, Dr. Margaret Foti, Dr. Sanya A. Springfield, Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa, Dr. Katherine Tossas, and Dr. Rajarshi Sengupta at the AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report 2024 Congressional Briefing, Washington, DC, May 15, 2024.

# CCHE Budget

CCHE FUNDING SUMMARY PERCENTAGE  
FY2023





# Cancer Equity Leaders

- On April 8, CRCHD announced the **Cancer Equity Leaders (CEL)**.
- **Purpose:** To engage an elite cadre of experts to further reimagine and transform the future of cancer health equity.
- **Objectives**
  - Assess the landscape to elucidate critical strengths and gaps in cancer equity infrastructure
  - Prioritize the critical needs for expanding institutional capacity and achieving cancer health equity, and
  - Develop a strategic agenda to enhance the National Cancer Plan.



# Cancer Equity Leaders

- **John Carpten, Ph.D.**  
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Marcia Cruz-Correa, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Chanita Hughes-Halbert, Ph.D.**  
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Juanita Merchant, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Ruben Mesa, M.D.**  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.**  
Morehouse School of Medicine
- **Kunle Odunsi, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Taofeek Owonikoko, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Ben Ho Park, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
- **Yolanda Sanchez, Ph.D.**  
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Selwyn Vickers, M.D.**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- **Cheryl Willman, M.D.**  
Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Robert Winn, M.D.**  
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

# Cancer Equity Leaders

- **CEL Planning Committee Co-Chairs**
  - **Sanya A. Springfield, Ph.D.**  
National Cancer Institute
  - **Karen Winkfield, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance
- **Broad areas of focus:**
  - MSI Readiness
  - Redefining Disparities Research
  - Community Engagement
  - Future Leaders in Cancer Health Equity
- In 2025, the CEL team will host an event to hear and learn diverse perspectives across the cancer community to further advance NCI's health equity efforts.

The graphic features a dark blue header with the NIH logo and the text 'NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE' and 'Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities'. Below this, the text 'CEL PLANNING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS' is displayed in large blue letters. Two portraits are shown: Sanya A. Springfield, Ph.D. (top right) and Karen Winkfield, M.D., Ph.D. (bottom center). The bottom center portrait is surrounded by icons: a white ribbon on a teal background to the left, a white scales of justice icon on a teal background to the right, and a white puzzle piece icon on a blue background to the right. The bottom of the graphic contains the text 'U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | National Institutes of Health'.

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

CEL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
**CO-CHAIRS**

*Sanya A. Springfield, Ph.D.*  
*Karen Winkfield, M.D., Ph.D.*

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | National Institutes of Health

# Who We Are



# Thank you!



**NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE**

[cancer.gov](https://www.cancer.gov)

[cancer.gov/espanol](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol)