



*The* RACE  
*and* SOCIAL  
DETERMINANTS  
*of* EQUITY,  
HEALTH *and*  
WELL-BEING

Cluster Hire and Retention Initiative  
at the University of Pittsburgh

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Dear Colleagues,

In 2020, the University of Pittsburgh committed to change its internal practices, policies and structures to make Pitt a more equitable and just university—and by so doing, to further contribute to sustainable societal change.

An important part of this commitment includes increasing Pitt’s academic effort to understand and address race and the social determinants of equity, health and well-being.

Although the University currently houses great faculty expertise in these areas, it strives to significantly increase its capacity to undertake this work.

To that end, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Ann E. Cudd and Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences Anantha Shekhar launched the Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health and Well-being Cluster Hire and Retention Initiative—one of the largest of its kind by any institution in the country.

Over four years and across its campuses, schools, disciplines and departments, the University will work with its deans and campus presidents to add new faculty who will conduct research, educate students, and engage in service designed to reduce racial disparities and to improve measures of equity, health and well-being in the Pittsburgh region, nationally and across the globe.

The initiative focuses on four interrelated goals:

- >> **Significantly increase the number of faculty who are hired, promoted and retained who work in these fields.**
- >> **Attract, recruit and graduate undergraduate and graduate students for whom these issues are important.**
- >> **Raise the University’s local, national and international profile and expertise in race and social determinants of equity, health and well-being.**
- >> **Increase the University’s capacity to contribute to important and sustainable societal change.**

In December 2020, Pitt’s Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health and Well-being Cluster Hire and Retention Committee invited proposals from all Pitt schools and campuses to identify, recruit, hire and onboard leading scholars from around the nation to fill these faculty positions.

And now we are thrilled to share the results of our efforts and to introduce the first cohort of Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health and Well-being Scholars. In the pages that follow, you will learn more about who they are and the breadth of their experience and expertise. Please join us in welcoming them to the University of Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,



Paula K. Davis  
Associate Vice Chancellor  
for Diversity, Equity,  
and Inclusion, Health Sciences



John M. Wallace, Jr.  
Vice Provost for Faculty  
Diversity and Development



# The University of Pittsburgh A NATIONAL LEADER

Building upon the Plan for Pitt, the University of Pittsburgh is committed to being a national leader in efforts to understand and address race and social determinants of equity, health and well-being.

The vision of the Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health and Well-Being Initiative is to successfully identify, recruit, hire, retain and promote faculty across Pitt's campuses, schools, disciplines and departments. These faculty will work with, and build upon, the expertise of existing Pitt faculty to conduct research, educate students and engage in service designed to eliminate racial disparities in the social determinants of equity and to improve measures of well-being in the Pittsburgh region, nationally and across the globe.



The University of Pittsburgh's Center on Race and Social Problems also works with the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences to assist units' efforts to recruit, hire, onboard and retain cluster faculty through ongoing campus and community networking, intellectual exchange, career development and social support.

The University-wide cluster hire and retention initiative is transforming Pitt's expertise in, and research on, Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health and Well-Being.

The Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health and Well-Being Cluster Hire Committee comprises the following representatives:

**Ann E. Cudd**  
*Provost, ex officio*

**Anantha Shekhar**  
*SVC for Health Sciences, ex officio*

**John Wallace**  
*Office of the Provost, co-Chair*

**Paula K. Davis**  
*Health Sciences, co-Chair*

**Mario C. Browne**  
*Graduate School of Public Health/School of Pharmacy*

**Yolanda Covington-Ward**  
*Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences*

**T. Elon Dancy**  
*School of Education*

**Rosta Farzan**  
*School of Computing and Information*

**Tiffany Gary-Webb**  
*Graduate School of Public Health*

**Janet Grady**  
*Pitt Johnstown*

**Jacqueline Horrall**  
*Pitt Greensburg*

**James Huguley**  
*Center on Race and Social Problems, School of Social Work*

**Jeff Inman**  
*Katz Graduate School of Business*

**Michael Kenney**  
*Graduate School of Public and International Affairs*

**Julius Kitutu**  
*School of Nursing*

**Adam Leibovich**  
*Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences*

**James Martin II**  
*Swanson School of Engineering*

**Thomas Nolin**  
*School of Pharmacy*

**Adriana Modesto Vieira**  
*School of Dental Medicine*

**Chenits Pettigrew, Jr.**  
*School of Medicine*

**Tomar Pierson-Brown**  
*School of Law*

**Frits Pil**  
*Katz Graduate School of Business*

**Laurel B. Roberts**  
*Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences*

**Anne Robertson**  
*Swanson School of Engineering*

**Bernard Rousseau**  
*School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences*

**Randall Smith**  
*School of Pharmacy*

**Erin Walker**  
*School of Computing and Information*

**Emily Williams**  
*Pitt Bradford*

# WELCOMING & CELEBRATING

**The Race and Social Determinants initiative has brought to the University of Pittsburgh additional academic leaders with outstanding expertise. Learn more about them!**



**Mariana Bezat**  
PhD, University of Pittsburgh  
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
*Oral & Craniofacial Sciences*

>> Dr. Mariana Bezat is a dentist by training who earned her PhD in Oral and Craniofacial Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Recently, she received a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Her studies focus on how oral health outcomes and overall health comorbidities of individuals who have survived cancer are affected by genetic variation.

Bezat earned her DDS at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine as a graduate student. After graduating, she has continued as a TL1 postdoctoral fellow with appointments in both the School of Medicine and the School of Dental Medicine, working to define oral disease patterns that are associated with specific genomic and phenomic profiles.



**Amanda Boston**  
PhD, Brown University  
DIETRICH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
*Africana Studies*

>> Dr. Amanda Boston is an assistant professor in the Department of Africana Studies. Her research, writing, and teaching focus on twentieth century and contemporary

African American urban history, politics, and popular culture. Her current projects explore gentrification's racial operations in her hometown of Brooklyn, New York, and their role in the making and unmaking of the borough's Black communities.

Boston holds a PhD and an MA in Africana Studies from Brown University, as well as an MA in Political Science and a BA in Political Science and African and African American Studies from Duke University. Prior to

joining the Pitt faculty, she was a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow at New York University.



**Rhea Bowman**  
PharmD, University of Pittsburgh  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
*Pharmacy & Therapeutics*

>> Dr. Rhea Bowman is the newly appointed director of communications and

an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. Bowman brings with her dual credentials in pharmacy and communications, having earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and a Bachelor of Arts in Nonfiction English Writing—both from the University of Pittsburgh.

After graduation, Bowman worked as a pharmacist for CVS Pharmacy, then found her niche in managed care with CVS Caremark. There, she played an integral role performing comprehensive medication reviews and collaborating in an interprofessional practice with physicians and prescribers

nationwide to manage medically complex patients. As director of communications, she manages consultants to Pitt Pharmacy and is responsible for leading the communications strategy for the school—including print, digital, and video media.



**Brittany Brown - Podgorski**  
PhD, Indiana University  
Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*Health Policy and Management*

>> Dr. Brittany L. Brown-Podgorski is an assistant professor of Health Policy and Management in the Graduate School of Public Health. Brown-Podgorski earned her PhD in Health Policy and Management from the Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health and had a NHLBI T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin.

Brown-Podgorski's research examines the impact of state-level laws and regulations on social determinants of health and health outcomes. She is particularly interested in how the state policy environment and political economy influence health disparities among minoritized populations.



**Sebastian Eduardo Sattui Cortes**  
MD, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Rheumatology*

>> Dr. Sebastian E. Sattui is a rheumatologist certified in rheumatology and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is assistant professor of Medicine and is the Director of the Vasculitis Center at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Sattui received his medical degree from Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru, and completed his residency at University of Alabama at Birmingham, followed by a rheumatology fellowship and advance rheumatology/vasculitis fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery/Weill Cornell Medicine.

A member of the American College of Rheumatology and the American College of Physicians, Sattui's clinical interests include vasculitis, particularly giant cell arteritis and ANCA-vasculitis and polymyalgia rheumatica, and his research interests include treatment outcomes of vasculitis and PMR including age-related outcomes of patients with inflammatory conditions.



**Tiffany Clark**  
MD, Creighton University  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Psychiatry*

>> Dr. Tiffany Clark joined the Department of Psychiatry as assistant professor of Psychiatry. She earned her medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. Following psychiatry residency at Temple University, Clark completed her consultation-liaison fellowship at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital (WPH).

At the Temple University Hospital Health System, Clark was chair of the Graduate Medical Education housestaff diversity committee and received a residency service award for her leadership efforts in this area. In 2020, she co-authored a poster presented at the Academy of Consultation-Liaison annual conference on stigmatizing language in medical records. She has additionally presented grand rounds on demystifying steroid-induced psychosis and posters on cannabis-induced hyperemesis syndrome. Clark's clinical focus at UPMC will be in consultation-liaison psychiatry and the WPH Psychiatric Emergency Services department.





**Darlène Dubuisson**  
PhD, Columbia University  
DIETRICH SCHOOL OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES  
*Anthropology*

>> Dr. Darlène Dubuisson has joined the Department of Anthropology as assistant professor. Dubuisson received her PhD from Columbia University. Her research interests span sociocultural anthropology, activist and engaged anthropology, and feminist and Black

studies. Her work weaves together analyses of Black radical intellectual, social, and political movements, diaspora, and crises and futures. Her primary geographic focus is Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dubuisson's current book project, *Place-Making in a Fractured Academic Landscape*, is based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Port-au-Prince between 2013 and 2018. The book explores Haitian intellectual exile and academic diaspora homecomings after two would-be moments of social transformation in Haiti: post-Duvalier (1986-) and post-

earthquake (2010-). Her next research project will explore new Black geographies through the migrations of Haitian youth to Santiago, Chile.



**Paris Ekeke**  
MD, The Ohio State University  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Pediatrics/Newborn Medicine*

>> Dr. Paris Ekeke has joined the UPMC Newborn Medicine Program as an assistant professor.

Ekeke earned her medical degree from The Ohio State University, followed by a pediatric residency at Northwestern University and the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She then traveled to Pittsburgh, where she completed her neonatal-perinatal fellowship at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. While at the University of Pittsburgh, Ekeke also earned a master's degree in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

Prior to returning to UPMC Children's, Ekeke was a practicing

neonatologist at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio. Her research interests are largely devoted to better understanding health care disparities, the social determinants of health, and the effects of prenatal stress on neonatal outcomes. A portion of Ekeke's research at UPMC Children's will involve epidemiologic studies to understand determinants and consequences of adverse pregnancy outcomes as part of the Pittsburgh Study.



**Nancy Gauvin**  
EdD, Nova Southeastern University  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES  
*Department of Communication Science and Disorders*

>> Dr. Nancy Gauvin is an assistant professor leading the newest Communication and Health Equity Outcomes Research Initiative for the Department of Communication Science and Disorders (CSD). As an assistant professor in the tenure stream, Gauvin's primary academic responsibilities involve teaching in the speech-language pathology and clinical doctoral programs and the development of a systematic research program consistent with her expertise in vocal health and wellness,

craniofacial anomalies/cleft lip and palate and resonance, and cultural considerations in clinical supervision and scholarship of teaching and learning, and health equity and outcomes.

As a faculty investigator, she is a member of the CSD's Research Enterprises in Voice and Swallowing (REVS) multi-investigator research initiative and serves as director of CSD's newest health equity and outcomes research core. Gauvin joined the department from Molloy College in Queens, New York, where she served as an assistant professor. She previously served as a clinical assistant professor at the University of Vermont and program instructor/clinical supervisor at Nova Southeastern University.



**Katherine Guyon-Harris**  
PhD, Eastern Michigan University  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*General Academic Pediatrics*

>> Dr. Katherine Guyon-Harris is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and serves as a clinician with University of Pittsburgh Physicians, specializing in infant and early

childhood mental health and relationship-based parenting interventions for children birth to age five. She is dedicated to supporting positive parent-child relationships during the perinatal period through both research and clinical work.

Guyon-Harris earned a BA in psychology from Michigan State University and completed her MS and PhD at Eastern Michigan University. She completed a clinical internship at the Tulane University School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and also completed a joint research and clinical postdoctoral fellowship at Tulane. Following postdoctoral studies, Guyon-Harris completed a T32-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Pitt's School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics to gain further training in perinatal mental health and substance use in primary care settings.



**Ashley Hill**  
DrPH, Texas A&M University  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
*Epidemiology*

>> Dr. Ashley Hill is an assistant professor, epidemiology, in the Graduate School of Public Health. Her research aims to reduce disparities in sexually

transmitted infections and reproductive sequelae for young people. Her research goals are to develop measures of structural inequity; understand the influence of discrimination on minority women's sexual health; and develop and assess feasibility and efficacy of multilevel interventions addressing structural inequity, interpersonal and individual level risk for adverse reproductive health.

Hill holds a Bachelor of Science from Spelman College, a Master of Public Health from Georgia Southern University, and a Doctor of Public Health from Texas A&M University. Additionally, she was a Postdoctoral Scholar with the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics.



**Andrea Ibarra**  
MD, University of Illinois College of Medicine  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Anesthesia*

>> Dr. Andrea Ibarra joined the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine as assistant professor. Her research has focused on perioperative and perinatal outcomes among those with cardiovascular disease. Her current research investigates how

hypertensive disorders of pregnancy affect cognition as well as the role of disparities in these outcomes. Ibarra's clinical and academic interests include diversity, equity, and inclusion in health care.

She earned her MD from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and a Master of Science in Clinical Research from the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Clinical Research Education. She has also held a T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship with the University of Pittsburgh Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine and did her anesthesiology residency with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



**Katrina Knight**  
PhD, University of Pittsburgh

SWANSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
*Bioengineering*

>> Dr. Katrina Knight joined the Swanson School of Engineering as assistant professor in the Department of Bioengineering. She came to the department from a postdoctoral associate position in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and the Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

Knight's research focuses on the pathogenesis and treatment of pelvic organ prolapse and the biomechanical mechanisms underlying the failure of synthetic meshes in an effort to develop improved mesh materials and design. She seeks to develop a device specifically tailored for prolapse repair and based on scientific evidence. Such a device, she says, will improve the lives of women with this condition around the world.

She also currently serves as a co-founder and chief engineering officer of Your Village Is My Village, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization that aims to positively transform communities through mentoring and the education of at-risk youths.



**Mosopefoluwa Lanlokun**  
MD, Rutgers University Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Pediatric Allergy and Immunology*

>> Dr. Mosopefoluwa "Sope" Lanlokun is an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in the Division of Allergy and Immunology. She graduated from the

University of Maryland, College Park with a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Neurobiology and a minor in Spanish. Lanlokun received her medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and subsequently completed her pediatrics residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center. She recently completed her allergy and immunology fellowship at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Lanlokun's research interests include asthma and food allergies, particularly with regard to the role of social determinants of health. She is passionate about health equity and plans to pursue professional opportunities to develop a better understanding of social determinants of health to impact her clinical practice and research. She also values mentorship and currently serves as a mentor to students in both college and medical school.



**Amanda McCoy**  
MD, Duke University School of Medicine  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Orthopaedic Surgery*

>> Dr. Amanda McCoy is a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon and an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. McCoy earned an MPH

from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and received her medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine. She completed orthopaedic surgery residency training in the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program followed by a pediatric orthopaedic surgery fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine.

McCoy's clinical focus is pediatric orthopaedics, and her research interests

include lower extremity deformity and health care access. She recently completed a two-year commitment at Tenwek Mission Hospital in Bomet, Kenya. She was appointed Interim Program Director of Pan African Association of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)/College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) Tenwek Orthopaedic Residency Program. She extended her initial commitment an additional year to assist



**Melody Mickens**  
PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
*Physical Health & Rehabilitation*

>> Dr. Melody Mickens is an experienced assistant professor and licensed clinical psychologist with a specialized practice in rehabilitation psychology and neuropsychology. She provides psychotherapy and neuropsychological assessment on the Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the UPMC Rehabilitation Institute at Mercy Hospital. She has expertise in treating the emotional, cognitive, and social aspects of adaptation to acquired disability after spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, amputation, and progressive neurological disorders.

As a clinician-scientist, Mickens is a funded investigator who has published on facilitators of community reintegration and resilience after spinal cord injury as well as determinants of caregiver emotional wellness during progressive neurological illness and in response to COVID 19. Her research interests and collaborations are focused on expanding the use of community-based participatory



research models within rehabilitation populations, improving community participation after acquired disability, reducing negative mental health outcomes for caregivers and family members of individuals with progressive illness, expansion of telehealth within rehabilitation populations, and development of mobile health applications for management of mood and health behaviors after acquired injury.



**Terri Newman**  
PharmD, Butler University  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
*Pharmacy and Therapeutics*

>> Dr. Terri Newman is an assistant professor of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. She was previously an outcomes research fellow at UPMC Health Plan and Pitt Pharmacy, focusing on conducting large pharmacoepidemiology studies to evaluate health and economic outcomes associated with the use of anticoagulants and antidiabetic treatments. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Butler University and her Master of Science in Health Services Research and Policy from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

In June 2021, Newman received the ASHP

Pharmacy Leadership Scholars Research Grant for her project “Identifying Barriers and Facilitators to the Use of Disease Modifying Treatments in Sickle Cell Disease: Analysis of Provider and Patient Surveys and Interviews.” She was also invited to submit a full application for the American Society of Hematology Scholar Award, a grant award for junior faculty to provide resources and training to become independent researchers.



**Martina Anto-Ocrah**  
PhD, University of Rochester  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*General Internal Medicine*

>> Dr. Martina Anto-Ocrah joins the School of Medicine as a faculty member in General Internal Medicine. Anto-Ocrah received her doctoral degree in Epidemiology at the University of Rochester. Previously, she received her Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Rochester and an undergraduate degree in Clinical Laboratory Science from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. Anto-Ocrah worked in the corporate and private sectors for a few years before returning to the University of Rochester to complete her PhD.

Anto-Ocrah’s research interests are focused

mainly on under-resourced settings and vulnerable populations and center on reproductive epidemiology, behavioral neurology, and global emergency medicine research methods and epidemiology. In her spare time, she enjoys humorously documenting parenting a 10-year-old singleton and his 7-year-old triplet siblings.



**Onome Oghifobi**  
MD, University of Benin  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Pediatric/Newborn Medicine*

>> Dr. Onome Oghifobi is an assistant professor in neonatology and pursued organized research training in the area of resuscitation medicine as part of the Pediatric Scientist Development Program at UPMC Children’s Hospital and the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation Physician-Scientist Incubator Program at University of Pittsburgh.

Under the guidance of resuscitation experts at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research, Oghifobi’s research focuses on defining the mechanisms underpinning cerebral blood flow dysregulation after asphyxial cardiac arrest with the goal of developing therapeutic strategies that will improve neurological outcomes in infants and children with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy.



Oghifobi received his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Benin, Nigeria, and performed his residency in pediatrics at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.



**Taofeek Owonikoko**  
MBChB, Obafemi Awolowo University and PhD, Heinrich Heine University  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Hematology/Oncology*

>> Dr. Taofeek Owonikoko joined the University

as the new chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and in the School of Medicine. Owonikoko also serves as Associate Director for Translational Research and Co-Leader of the Cancer Therapeutics Program at Hillman and holds the Stanley M. Marks – OHA Endowed Chair in Hematology/Oncology Leadership.

Owonikoko is a physician-scientist, board-certified in medical oncology, hematology and internal medicine with a clinical focus on treating patients with lung cancer. His research interests are

in pre-clinical biomarker discovery in lung cancer and other solid tumor types, and translation of promising laboratory findings into clinical trials in collaboration with academic and industry partners.

Owonikoko received his MBChB (MD equivalent) from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and his PhD from Heinrich Heine University in Germany. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University followed by residency in internal medicine at Drexel University. He completed his hematology/oncology fellowship training at

UPMC. He also holds a Master of Science in Clinical Research from Emory University.



**Kathryn Reed**  
MS, University of Pittsburgh  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES  
*Department of PA Studies*

>> Kathryn Reed is assistant professor and Vice Chair for Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement in the Department of Physician

Assistant Studies. Reed currently practices in internal medicine and is the founder and president of the National Society of Black Physician Assistants (NSBPA).

Reed’s research interests are in the areas of health disparities and inequities, especially in relation to access to preventative care services, disease prevalence and outcomes and the impact of patient education in underrepresented groups. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants Health Disparity Committee and the recipient of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science’s (SHRS) Rising Star Award. Reed earned her Bachelor of Science in emergency medicine and her Master of Science in physician assistant studies from SHRS.



**Ana Rodriguez**  
DDS, University of California, San Francisco  
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
*Pediatric Dentistry*

>> Dr. Ana Rodriguez joins the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Her focus is on helping children develop the skills to have a lifetime of good oral hygiene. Rodriguez understands that oral

health is a very important part of overall systemic health and finds it very gratifying to be a part of the journey to improve a young patient’s smile and build a strong foundation of oral health for the future.

Rodriguez attended Florida International University for her Bachelor of Science degree. Moving to the West Coast, she earned her Doctorate of Dental Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry. She then attended New York University College of Dentistry for her Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry before returning to the warmer San Francisco climate, where she practiced for three years before joining us in Pittsburgh.



**Sandra Stinnett**  
MD, University of Miami  
Miller School of Medicine  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Otolaryngology*

>> Dr. Sandra Stinnett joins the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology Division of Laryngology as an assistant professor, coming from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Stinnett completed her fellowship in Laryngology (study of the voice box) at Johns Hopkins

University. She received her medical degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and was then accepted into the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital – Department of Otolaryngology, where she completed her internship and residency training.

Stinnett is passionate about creating an awareness for vocal hygiene and prevention and providing state-of-the-art care in this field. Her areas of expertise include the full spectrum of disorders of the voice which range from management of the professional voice, treatment of neurological conditions of the larynx, benign and malignant conditions of the vocal folds, vocal fold paralysis, airway reconstruction and swallowing disorders.



**Yetsa Tuakli-Wosornu**  
MD, Harvard  
Medical School  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Physical Medicine  
& Rehabilitation*

>> Dr. Yetsa A. Tuakli-Wosornu is an associate professor and a board-certified physician specializing in interventional spine and sports medicine treatments, helping people achieve high physical and athletic performance at all stages of life through

“holistic mind-body development” and therapies. She is skilled in such innovative treatments as image-guided joint and spine injections, as well as regenerative treatments that help many athletes heal from injuries faster and better.

As a physician-scientist, she works with numerous global sport and rehabilitation organizations and is the founding director of the Sports Equity Lab, a research group delivering athlete-centered content that tackles inequities in sport such as discrimination, social exclusion, disability stigma, harassment, abuse, and neglect, using translational biopsychosocial science.

Tuakli-Wosornu earned her MD from Harvard Medical School, a MPH in Human Nutrition from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a BA in African Studies from Yale College. She performed an internship in internal medicine with Medstar Good Samaritan Hospital, Baltimore; a PM&R residency with the University of Maryland; and an Interventional Spine and Sports Medicine Fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York.



**Mary Ellen Vajravelu**  
MD, Case Western  
Reserve University

**School of Medicine**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
*Pediatric Endocrine*

>> Dr. Mary Ellen Vajravelu is assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh and a pediatric endocrinologist in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism at the UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. She treats all pediatric endocrine conditions and has special expertise in prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents.

Vajravelu’s research focuses on pediatric obesity and Type 2 diabetes. She studies best practices for using mobile health to improve patient care and health outcomes. Additionally, Vajravelu combines her training in epidemiology, biostatistics, qualitative research, and quality improvement to study and improve clinical effectiveness of therapies for children with endocrine-related diseases.

She holds an MD from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, an MSHP from University of Pennsylvania, and BS from Johns Hopkins University. She did her general pediatrics residency at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where she also completed fellowships in pediatric endocrinology and healthcare quality improvement and patient safety.

“*Real education* means to inspire people to live more *abundantly*, to learn to begin with life as they find it *and make it better.*”

– Carter G. Woodson,  
“The MisEducation of the Negro”





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