

# NEWSLETTER

## COBB SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### Summer 2021

We are pleased to share the first official newsletter of the Cobb Scholars Program. A recently launched initiative of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, this program benefits from close collaboration with National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN), Association for Academic Minority Physicians (AAMP), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity (SWD). Toward diversification of leadership in the areas of research, policy and practice, we anticipate facilitating intensive mentoring and networking for early-career physicians, including residents and fellows, as well as young faculty and scientists.

Join us this month at the  
Virtual 2021 NMA  
Convention!



NIH Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity invites you to stay connected:

[News & Events | SWD at NIH](#)

[Blog | SWD at NIH](#)

For optimal engagement, subscribe to the **Updates in Diversity blog** (above) for information and resources on timely topics such as:

*Confronting Systemic Racism in Science*

*Amplifying the Voices of Underrepresented Group Scientists with NIH's Women of Color Committee*

*A Closer Look at NIH's Distinguished Scholars Program*

*Navigating the NIH Grant Application Process*

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**SAVE THE DATE** for the 35th Annual Scientific Virtual Meeting of the Association for Academic Minority Physicians (AAMP) to be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021.



### Featuring

**Kenneth Frazier, JD**  
Chairman and CEO  
Merck & Co

**Marie A. Bernard, MD**  
Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity  
NIH

Presentations of original research from students, trainees and faculty are strongly encouraged. **Submit your abstracts for consideration by August 23, 2021! Details provided on next page.**

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# Invitation to AAMP Scientific Meeting



## Association for Academic Minority Physicians (AAMP) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting - Virtual Saturday, October 2, 2021

The Cobb Scholars Program invites your participation in the upcoming Annual AAMP Scientific Meeting, which hosts scholarly presentations and features numerous influential leaders within biomedical research, academic medicine and health care delivery. Note that dedicated networking sessions and programming will be available for active Cobb Scholars. Abstracts on research dealing with mentoring and health disparities are especially desirable and highly encouraged from all professions and levels, including students, training and faculty. **The ABSTRACT DEADLINE is August 27, 2021.** For additional information, contact Pam Nixon at [pnixon@umaryland.edu](mailto:pnixon@umaryland.edu).

REGISTER

ABSTRACTS

### FEATURING



**Kenneth Frazier, JD**  
Chairman and CEO  
Merck & Co.



**Marie A. Bernard, MD**  
Chief Officer for Scientific  
Workforce Diversity  
NIH

*The AAMP was formed in 1986 with the primary mission of improving representation in biomedical research, academic medicine and ultimately health care delivery and leadership. Since then, AAMP has held numerous successful scientific meetings, also supporting travel fellowships for young investigators and medical students. With a supplemental grant from NRMN, AAMP will advocate for institutional cultural change that values and incentivizes mentorship and will challenge the academic community to deliver on the promise of a diverse biomedical research workforce.*

## Next NRMN Cohort Application Opens Soon



*Pursuing NIH awards (K, R, SC, U), Diversity Supplement, or pilot grant and are not yet a National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) participant? Or a senior researcher interested in supporting NRMN participants?*

**Consider Morehouse School of Medicine's**

### **NRMN STRATEGIC EMPOWERMENT TAILORED FOR HEALTH EQUITY INVESTIGATORS (SETH)\***

The Cobb Scholars Program is hosting an informational webinar to support **Study Participant** and **Coach-In-Training** applicants for the next cohort of NRMN-SETH, a 9-month intervention funded by NIH to improve the research productivity of Early Stage and New Investigators. Intensive grant writing and coaching in the virtual Health Equity Learning Collaboratory commences following a 2-day virtual orientation, thereby providing sufficient resources and tools for participants to submit at least one NIH grant application within 12 months of completing the program. Coaches benefit from mentorship training and access to NRMN Mentor Certification. For additional details, contact Kimberly Lawson at [nrmn.seth@gmail.com](mailto:nrmn.seth@gmail.com).

*\* Funded as the Cobb Scholar Initiative, National Institute of Health, Office of Logistics and Administration, Contract # 75N98020P2395.*

### SAVE THE DATE

Informational  
Webinar

**ZOOM  
LINK**

Thursday,  
August 5, 2021

4-5 PM ET



[Registration | NMA Convention](#)

[Schedule | NMA Convention](#)

The National Medical Association (NMA)'s Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly is acclaimed as the nation's foremost forum on medical science and African American health. Each year, African American physicians and other health professionals from across the country convene to participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, discuss health policy priorities, and to share experiences. Through NMA's 26 Scientific Specialty Sections, the Convention attracts the broadest spectrum of African American physicians, academicians and scientists in the country.



**JOIN THE W. MONTAGUE COBB/NMA HEALTH INSTITUTE AT THE 2021 CONVENTION**

**FRIDAY, July 16, 2021**

6:00 pm–8:00 pm **Opening Ceremony and Awards Program**  
*W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award*  
**Dr. Richard Allen Williams**, Founder of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC).  
*Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award*  
**Dr. Hannah Valentine**, first NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity.  
*2021 NMA Practitioner of the Year Award*  
**Dr. Winston Price**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, PCOM South Georgia

8:00 pm–10:00 pm **NMA 125th Anniversary Celebration Program**

**SATURDAY, July 17, 2021**

11:00 am–12:30 pm **Edward C. Mazique Symposium**  
 Anti-Racism: A Call to Action for Health of the Public Health

3:00 pm–4:30 pm **Project IMPACT 2.0 Roundtable Symposium**  
 Achieving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Clinical Trials/Research: A Priority

3:00 pm–5:00 pm **Infectious Disease Symposium**  
 ACTIV-2 – Early Treatment of COVID-19

**SUNDAY, July 18, 2021**

11:00 am–1:00 pm **Edith Irby Jones**  
**Altering the Course: Black Men in Medicine II**

1:30 pm–3:00 pm **Council on Concerns of Women Physicians**

3:00 pm–5:00 pm **16<sup>th</sup> Annual W. Montague Cobb Symposium and Lectureship**,  
 The Role of HBCU Medical Schools and Key Partner Organizations in Mitigating Disparate Impact from COVID-19

5:00 pm–6:00 pm **Past Presidents Leadership Forum**

**MONDAY, July 19, 2021**

7:00 am – 9:00 am **Internal Medicine Section Program**

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Jane Wright Cooke Cancer Symposium**

6:00 pm **122nd Presidential Installational Installation**

\* All times listed in Eastern Time (ET).

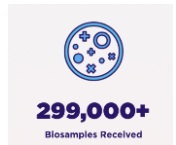


Founded by the National Medical Association (NMA) in 2004, the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute (Cobb Institute) annually hosts numerous programs at the Annual NMA Convention and Scientific Assembly, most notably the Annual W. Montague Cobb Symposium and Lectureship.

# Access the *All of Us* Researcher Workbench



As a member of the Community Partner and Gateway Initiative (CPGI) of the *All of Us* Research Program of the NIH, the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute encourages you to join the *All of Us* Researcher Workbench. You can rapidly launch research projects and generate quality manuscripts for publication using the robust data available from 315,000 participants at this time—including physical measurements, electronic health records (EHRs), Fitbit data, and surveys, including results from the COVID-19 Participant Experience (COPE) survey. Basic tutorials are available on YouTube. If you require additional trainings (e.g., in Python or R) or seek technical assistance to apply for access or to assist your institution with the required Data Use and Registration Agreement, please contact [treid@thecobbinstitute.org](mailto:treid@thecobbinstitute.org). Also SUBSCRIBE to quarterly updates of the *All of Us* “Research Round Up” and review the first issue.



APPLY FOR ACCESS

## Publication Opportunities



SUBMIT MANUSCRIPT

**Editor in Chief: Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD**

The *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, the official journal of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, reports on the scholarly progress of work to understand, address, and ultimately eliminate health disparities based on race and ethnicity. Efforts to explore underlying causes of health disparities and to describe interventions that have been undertaken to address racial and ethnic health disparities are featured. Promising studies that are ongoing or studies that have longer term data are welcome, as are studies that serve as lessons for best practices in eliminating health disparities. Original research articles as well as evolutionary reviews presenting the state-of-the-art thinking on problems centered on health disparities will be considered for publication.



SUBMIT MANUSCRIPT

**Editor in Chief: Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP, FRCP (LONDON)**

The *Journal of the National Medical Association* addresses medical care disparities of persons of African descent, also focusing on specialized clinical research activities related to the health problems of African Americans and other minority groups. Special emphasis is placed on the application of medical science to improve the healthcare of underserved populations both in the United States and abroad. The Journal has the following objectives: (1) to expand the base of original peer-reviewed literature and the quality of that research on the topic of minority health; (2) to provide greater dissemination of this research; (3) to offer appropriate and timely recognition of the significant contributions of physicians who serve these populations; and (4) to promote engagement by member and non-member physicians in the overall goals and objectives of the NMA.

# Scholar Recognition



**Congratulations!** to the *first* Cobb Scholar-NRMN/SETH Cohort and participating institutions.

Institution	Title of Project	Funding Mechanism
<b>GEORGIA COLLEGE &amp; STATE UNIVERSITY</b>		
<b>Eboni Haynes, PhD, MBA</b>	<i>The Use of Project Management Training to Improve Doctoral Students' Scholarly Productivity and Perceptions of Preparation to Conduct Independent Research</i>	R15
<b>MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE</b>		
<b>Jammie Hopkins, DrPH, MS, MSCR</b>	<i>Exercise is Medicine @ Morehouse: Physical Activity Systems Change in a Minority Serving Medical Practice</i>	K01
<b>NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY</b>		
<b>Kamilah Thomas-Purcell, PhD</b>	<i>Feasibility of a mHealth education module to prevent chronic kidney disease among Black in Broward County</i>	R21
<b>UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SCHOOL OF NURSING</b>		
<b>Natalie Leblanc, PhD, MPH, RN, BSN</b>	<i>Mechanizing U=U: Investigating Perspectives and Processes among Health Providers and Health Consumers in New York State</i>	R21
<b>UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA</b>		
<b>Diane Allen-Gipson, PhD, MS</b>	<i>Targeting CD73-Adenosine Signaling to Treat Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer</i>	R01
<b>Iraida Carrion, PhD, LCSW</b>	<i>Shared Decision Making in Palliative Cancer and End-of-Life Care for Latinos in the US (SHAPE)</i>	R21
<b>Tomar Ghansah, PhD</b>	<i>The Role of SHIP-1 in Regulation of Tumoricidal Macrophages in Pancreatic Cancer</i>	R01
<b>Roneé Wilson, PhD, MPH</b>	<i>Reducing inequities in maternal morbidity through paternal involvement</i>	R01

For more information about NRMN/SETH at Morehouse School of Medicine, please visit [NRMNnet.net](http://NRMNnet.net).



**Kudos!** to the Cobb Scholars who were selected to attend the ECOG-ACRIN Semi-Annual Meeting – Health Equity Committee Plenary Session as ECOG-ACRIN Minority Travel Scholarship Recipients:

Diane Allen-Gipson, PhD, MS (University of South Florida); Iraida Carrion, PhD, MSW (University of South Florida); Tomar Ghansah, PhD (University of South Florida); Maisha Standifer, PhD, MPH (Morehouse School of Medicine); and, Danyell Wilson-Howard, PhD, MS (Bethune-Cookman University)

The [ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group](http://ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group) is a multidisciplinary, membership-based scientific organization that designs and conducts biomarker-driven cancer research involving adults who have or are at risk of developing cancer. The Group is dedicated to achieving research advances in all aspects of cancer care and thereby reduce the burden of cancer and improve the quality of life and survival in patients with cancer. Group research is organized into three scientific programs: Cancer Control and Outcomes, Therapeutic Studies and Biomarker Sciences. There are nearly 1300 member institutions in the U.S. and around the world. Approximately 15,000 physicians, translational scientists, and associated research professionals from the member institutions are involved in Group research, along with patient representative members. ECOG-ACRIN is supported primarily through research grant funding from the National Cancer Institute, but also receives funding from private sector organizations through philanthropy and collaborations. PreCOG LLC, a not-for-profit company that partners with ECOG-ACRIN and industry to develop and conduct clinical trials in all areas of oncology.



With funding from the NIH Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity, the Cobb Scholars Program is intended to facilitate intensive mentoring and networking in the areas of research, policy and practice, and for the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.



<https://NRMNet.net/>



<https://www.thecobbinstitute.org/>



<https://www.aampinc.org/>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Organizational Leadership, as follows:

Randall C. Morgan, MD, MBA  
Founding CEO  
W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health  
Institute

Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH  
National Research Mentoring  
Network (NRMN)  
Morehouse School of Medicine

Donald Wilson, MD  
Founding Executive Director  
Association for Academic Minority  
Physicians (AAMP)

The Cobb Scholars Advisory Committee, and its Chair, **Winston Price, MD**

Staff from the Morehouse School of Medicine, as follows:

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Nadine Spring, MPH, MS  
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Research Centers in Minority Institutions  
(RCMI)– Coordinating Center

Staff and consultants from the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, as follows:

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