

# MEET THE SAMHSA MFP/ANA FELLOWS



21/22



**Sharmelle Bibles**

BSN, RN-BC

**Sharmelle Bibles, BSN, RN-BC**, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Texas State University, in San Marcos, TX. Ms. Bibles received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Trinity College in Rock Island, IL. She has worked in different areas of nursing practice for 10 years. Prior to becoming a Registered Nurse (RN), Ms. Bibles worked as a personal care aide for patients living in state funded personal care homes who had mental illness and developmental delays. In this role, she helped with meal preparation, medication management, and activities of daily living (ADL). As a result of this experience, she developed a passion for mental health.

Prior to enrolling as a PMHNP student, Ms. Bibles worked to provide case management and social services to indigent and underserved minorities in San Antonio, TX. She has also provided continued care management and counseling to active-duty service members and their family members.

Ms. Bibles has a passion to work with individuals in underserved communities who have limited access to mental healthcare and resources. She volunteers in the community and with her church to participate in fundraisers to support the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Foundation and the San Antonio Food Bank. She also works with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), in her spare time, to provide volunteer support to assist them with their mission to provide advocacy and education for those who suffer from mental illness.

She is an active member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), The Case Management Society of America, Sigma Theta Tau Honors Society, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



**Pak Chua**

BSN, RN

**Pak Chua, BSN, RN**, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing (UPenn), in Philadelphia, PA. His anticipated graduation is July 2022. Prior to enrolling at UPenn, Mr. Chau worked as a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center Emergency Department in Paterson, New Jersey. While working in the urban safety-net hospital, he became aware of the deep-rooted sequelae of the opioid crisis, the effects of violent crime, and the pressing disparities in mental health care. He was inspired to acquire additional education to become a PMHNP to assist him in helping to solve existing system's issues. Mr. Chau is interested in using technology to bridge gaps in care, identifying public health inequities, and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate psychiatric care to minority populations. He currently works as a telehealth nurse specializing in communicable disease management, epidemiology, and healthcare informatics.

Mr. Chau received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. During his studies, he became introduced to the mental health field through his volunteering as a crisis counselor through the Trevor Lifeline, a suicide prevention lifeline for at-risk LGBTQ youth. Additionally, as a research assistant, Mr. Chau assisted Dr. Susan Caplan in the development of technological innovations in the Dominican Republic to alleviate mental health disparities alongside the Dominican Ministry of Health. He hopes to continue working with groups across different intersections of life moving forward as a PMHNP. He attributes good care as care that meets patients at these specific intersections.

Mr. Chau is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), and Sigma Theta Tau's Nursing Honor Society.



**Portia Daniels**

BSN, RN

**Portia Daniels, BSN, RN**, is a second year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), School of Nursing, in San Francisco, CA. Ms. Daniels works as a staff nurse at a partial hospitalization program for youth providing short-term stabilization services, and also as a school nurse. Prior to this, she worked on a crisis unit for youth, providing stabilization services and education to youth and families.

Ms. Daniels earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Samuel Merritt University, and a Bachelor's in Sociology with a Minor in Education from the University of California Berkeley. Upon completion of the PMHNP program, Ms. Daniels plans to continue working in mental health, caring for the most vulnerable and underserved populations, with a focus on children and adolescents.

Ms. Daniels is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).



**Esenam Dankwaa**

BSN, RN, CMSRN

**Esenam Dankwaa, BSN, RN, CMSRN**, is a first-year student at Frontier Nursing University pursuing the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practitioner (PMHNP) degree. Her ultimate goal is to advocate for the underserved population. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2018 and was hired by Able 2, which offers comprehensive services and support to people with developmental disabilities. In her role as residential nurse, she enhanced and created opportunities for the patients to live their best lives enabling patients to contribute to the community. While working at Able 2, Ms. Dankwaa's interest in caring for the underserved peaked.

To broaden her skills and knowledge about caring for all patients from a diversified background, she transitioned to the medical surgical department at Atrium Health. Here, Ms. Dankwaa also worked in the substance use and alcohol unit caring for patient populations with substance use and alcohol issues and became engaged in quality improvement projects to reduce patients leaving the hospital against medical advice. To improve her knowledge of providing evidence-based care in that specialty, she became certified as a medical-surgical registered nurse (CMSRN).

Ms. Dankwaa also served as the Unit Based Council (UBC) at her department; and, as Chair, served as a liaison between nurses and patients to help improve patient's experiences and safety. Additionally, she has served as preceptor to new graduate students.



**Amber Hopkins**

BSN, RN

**Amber Hopkins, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, in Nashville, TN. She is expected to graduate in August of 2022. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Belmont University, in Nashville, TN. Prior to her enrollment at Vanderbilt, Ms. Hopkins worked for a large healthcare company in various roles which included implementing clinician technology and providing communications support for patient privacy.

Ms. Hopkins had a strong desire to directly impact patient care and saw a lack of mental health providers in the African American community. She plans to help eliminate the stigma of mental illness and has a specific passion for women seeking substance use treatment. Currently, she is completing her clinical work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center under the supervision of the Adult Psychiatric Consult-Liaison Team.

Ms. Hopkins is very involved in the Vanderbilt School of Nursing. She enjoys mentoring incoming students; has assisted in clinical research that focused on intergenerational transmission of cardiovascular risk at the school of Nursing; and, participated on a quality improvement project that led to the creation of a communal garden at a local residential treatment center for women. She also serves as the President of the Black Student Nurses Affinity Group at Vanderbilt. In this role, she has the privilege of coordinating diversity month, which allows nursing students to learn more about underrepresented groups to increase culturally and linguistically appropriate care. She is excited to begin her mental health care and hopes to use her platform to inspire other women of color to join the field.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA).



**Jolie Jemmott**

BSN, RN

**Jolie Jemmott, BSN, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in Philadelphia, PA specializing in child, adolescent, and family therapy. She currently works at the Fairmont Behavioral Health Systems, an outpatient psychiatric hospital, on the dual diagnosis unit. She developed her skills in substance use disorders in her previous job at the Recovery Centers of America's outpatient Medicated-Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic. Ms. Jemmott also worked at the Lankenau Medical Center's Colorectal Surgical Stepdown Unit, which turned into a 32-bed COVID-19 unit during the pandemic. Here, she developed a strong interest in working with marginalized families.

Ms. Jemmott graduated in May 2019 from Hampton University, in Hampton, VA where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. While at Hampton, she was selected to be a member of the Greer Dawson Wilson Student Leadership Training Program and the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute, where she mentored incoming and transfer students as well as organized multiple events around campus. She was also a member of the Hampton Student Nurses Association. Ms. Jemmott has volunteered and provided community service at local community centers, elementary schools tutoring children, and soup kitchens feeding the homeless. She is committed to giving a voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless by providing high-quality mental health direct services needed for various populations, especially the racial and ethnic minority vulnerable children, adolescents, and families living in marginalized communities.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), and the Sigma Theta Tau's Nursing Honor Society.



**Ronna Kiluvia**

MBA, RN, BSN

**Ronna Kiluvia, MBA, RN, BSN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at The Ohio State University, in Columbus, OH. Upon graduation, Ms. Kiluvia plans to provide mental health and substance use disorders treatment to underserved populations and to collaborate with local organizations on efforts to destigmatize mental illness.

Ms. Kiluvia earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Mount Carmel College of Nursing Cum Laude in 2019. She began her nursing career working on an adolescent inpatient psychiatric unit and later transitioned to an adult inpatient unit caring primarily for patients with severe mental illness.

Ms. Kiluvia has dedicated her career to caring for individuals and families in crisis. Prior to becoming a nurse, she provided case management services to children and their families with the child welfare system and also worked as a service coordinator supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve self-determination and skills in self-advocacy.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), and the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA).



**Faven Mesfin**

BS, RN

**Faven Mesfin, BS, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), in San Francisco, CA. She is completing her final clinical placement at Bonita House, a community mental health clinic. Ms. Mesfin has also rotated through UCSF's Osher Center assisting with integrative psychiatry in addition to an outpatient eating disorders program at Los Gatos Therapy Center (LGTC), a medical group practice specializing in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

During her time at UCSF, Ms. Mesfin has been a member of White Coats for Black Lives and the Associated Students of the School of Nursing organizations. She has also served as a teaching assistant for an Effective Communications course. She is currently assisting with a research project that examines harm reduction treatment for tobacco use with individuals with serious mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders. In addition, Ms. Mesfin has been working part-time as a nurse conducting COVID-19 tests as well as administering vaccines to vulnerable communities in the Bay Area.

Prior to her enrollment at UCSF, Ms. Mesfin received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Public Leadership at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. During her undergraduate studies, she was involved in numerous communication organizations, most notable being the student government association's diversity committee, College Park Scholars, and Alternative Breaks. Ms. Mesfin found strong fulfillment in giving back to her community. After graduation, she worked in a residential crisis facility and an alternative school for children and teens with behavioral problems. These experiences solidified her passion for mental health and led her to pursue her nursing career.

Ms. Mesfin is also strongly interested in immigrant mental health and plans to continue to provide care for vulnerable populations and to advocate for mental healthcare policy reform. She believes that true holistic care includes advocating for social change to best improve mental healthcare for all.



**Uriah Millen**

BSN, RN

**Uriah Millen, BSN, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University, in Minneapolis, MN. He anticipates graduating in May 2023. Upon graduation, Mr. Millen plans to focus on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and improve behavioral health access and outcomes for disadvantaged youth. He entered the field of nursing in the fall of 2003 and earned his bachelor's degree in nursing in 2014 from the University of South Florida, Tampa, in Tampa. He began his professional career as a critical care nurse and advanced from providing care at the bedside to nurse manager. Mr. Millen is currently the nurse manager of the intensive care and the progressive care units at a 260-bed hospital in the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Millen has a passion for helping the underrepresented and underserved African American population experiencing mental health issues. After 18-years in critical care roles, he decided to pursue an advanced degree in psychiatry and mental health nursing. As a minority who volunteers with the homeless, he has witnessed the effects of poverty, illicit drug use, and alcohol on minority populations. He believes providing mental health care is his calling and desires to impact minority youth suffering from mental illness and substance use.

Mr. Millen is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, and is the chair of the Critical Care Committee at his local hospital in Lutz, FL.



**Jasmine Thomas**

BSN, RN

**Jasmine Thomas, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Georgia Southern University School of Nursing, in Statesboro, GA. In 2016, she became a Registered Nurse (RN) after obtaining her Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) from Georgia State University, Perimeter College (GPC). She then earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Emory University. During her ADN studies, Ms. Thomas was selected to become a Bridges to Baccalaureate Scholar. This program was a partnership between GPC and Emory funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to prepare nurses from underrepresented groups to earn bachelor's degrees in nursing, with the additional goal of producing doctoral students for careers as health scientists/researchers.

As a scholar, Ms. Thomas was immersed into academic research and became a research assistant on a study focusing on pediatric oncology. As a nurse, she has delivered care to a culturally diverse range of people in areas such as medical-surgical, trauma, and emergency medicine. Currently, she works as a psychiatric nurse at an inpatient psychiatric hospital and an adolescent eating disorder residential facility in Atlanta, GA.

Prior to nursing, Ms. Thomas earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences, focused on pharmacy, from the University at Buffalo, in Buffalo, NY.



**Colleen Young**

BSN, RN

**Colleen Young, BSN, RN**, is a first year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Chamberlain University College of Nursing, in Downers Grove, IL. She earned degrees in both a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management. Ms. Young currently works as a case manager with the Veterans Health Administration providing services to veterans in a supportive housing program. Her goal is to use her practice as a PMHNP to connect with individuals, understand their challenges, and assist individuals with finding effective mental health and substance use treatment options.

Ms. Young has dedicated her nursing career to the specialty of mental health nursing, assisting, and advocating for individuals with health-related issues, substance use addiction, and mental health challenges. She plans to collaborate with other health care professionals to identify at risk populations and link individuals with services to improve overall health and wellness.



**Vivian "Enyo" Dzata**  
MSN, RN

**Vivian "Enyo" Dzata, MSN, RN, CPNP**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a focus on leadership at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), in Portland, OR. The focus of her DNP quality improvement project is to examine the current identification system of children with trauma in the 4J school district. The purpose of the project is to integrate a communication pathway between primary care clinicians and schools to allow for earlier identification of children experiencing trauma. Understanding the prevalence of students experiencing childhood trauma within the 4J school district, particularly in minority students, would help shape the type of education teachers are providing students, the overall school/state curricula and, ideally, result in improving pedagogy and educational policy, particularly for minoritized students in Oregon.

Ms. Dzata is also pursuing a pediatric primary care mental health specialist certification. She spent eight years in pediatric endocrinology and transitioned to pediatric primary care in 2016. She currently works in an underserved area and many of her patients have a developmental, behavioral, or mental health issue or are at risk for developing one or more of these issues.

She received her masters' degree in nursing from the Yale School of Nursing in 2007.



**Marcus D. Henderson**  
MSN, RN

**Marcus D. Henderson, MSN, RN**, is currently in his first year pursuing a PhD at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, in Baltimore, MD. His research interest is in child and adolescent mental health, mental health disparities, social determinants of health, and mental health services research. His goal is to improve care, eliminate disparities, and optimize outcomes for children and adolescents from marginalized backgrounds.

Mr. Henderson has professional experience working in community-based, acute psychiatric, and educational settings. He was a child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric mental health nurse for over three years in Philadelphia, PA. During that time, Mr. Henderson was also a lecturer in the Department of Family and Community Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where he taught undergraduate community health and psychiatric nursing. Prior, Mr. Henderson served as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Up and Running Healthcare Solutions, a Philadelphia-based organization that provided case management and other supportive services to homeless individuals. His work on health for homeless individuals and community health workers was funded by the 2017 Presidents Engagement Prize from the University of Pennsylvania. For his work in the Philadelphia community, in 2018 he was recognized as a Community Champion for Positive Change by the Independent Blue Cross Foundation.

Mr. Henderson is an elected board member of the American Nurses Association and served as a member of the Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 at the National Academy of Medicine. In 2021, he was appointed to serve as a member of the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing and trustee of the ANA-Political Action Committee.

He holds a BSN and MSN in Health Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and he also holds a certificate in Health Care Innovation from the Perelman School of Medicine.



**Nia Adimu-Ceja Josiah**

MSN, RN, PMHNP, BA

**Nia Adimu-Ceja Josiah, MSN, RN, PMHNP, BA**, is enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at Columbia University School of Nursing. Ms. Josiah plans to explore the effects of prescription drug abuse among Black women in disadvantaged communities and the efficacy of trauma informed care for her DNP quality improvement project. Her research interests are racial and ethnic health disparities in disadvantaged minority populations.

Ms. Josiah is a registered neuropsychiatric travel nurse, geriatric skilled nursing long-term care supervisor, remote clinical instructor, research assistant (RA) at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, and teaching assistant (TA) at Columbia University School of Nursing. With over a decade of experience in psychiatric mental health ranging from research to clinical practice, she prides her professional experience in climbing the ladder from a home health aide, certified nursing/gerontological assistant, special education assistant, medical assistant, medicine technician, Bachelor of Arts graduate, Master of Science in nursing graduate, to currently a doctoral student.

A Frederick, MD native, Ms. Josiah has provided psychiatric, and substance use direct care in urban Baltimore, MD communities including homeless shelters and group homes. She has worked alongside health professionals in community settings missioned to provide free healthcare screenings, preventions, and recovery from mental health and substance use disorders.

A distinguished author, Ms. Josiah's publications span creative writing, poetry, and prose to scientific nursing journals. Above all, as a single-mother, Ms. Josiah credits her daughter as her greatest achievement in life as well as her Divine purpose to serve, paving the way for her daughter and other Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) to climb the ladder to upward mobility.



**Theresa Moore**

MSN, RN, ARNP, PMHNP-BC

**Theresa Moore, MSN, RN, ARNP, PMHNP-BC**, is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN with plans upon graduation to pursue a PhD in Nursing. Her phenomenon of interest is identifying barriers in access to care for transient people of color in need of mental health and/or substance use disorder (SUD) services. Currently, she provides behavioral health and SUD services in an outpatient community health center located in Puyallup, WA.

As a board certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Mrs. Moore provides person centered care to patients with severe mental illnesses, using community resources and various support networks to strengthen their functioning and reducing the hospital recidivism.

Mrs. Moore is an active member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the California State Nurses Association, the Hawaii State Nurses Association and serves as Secretary of the DNP Student Diversity Group at Vanderbilt University. Additionally, she is a dedicated military spouse and mother of an active nine-year-old son.



**Tina Ohuche**

MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC

**Tina Ohuche, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC**, is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. As a certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), Ms. Ohuche is interested in treating patients with mental illnesses in the underserved communities as well as those with comorbidities, especially treatment of various substance use disorders. She treats patients who are struggling with addiction to various substances such as methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, crack, and alcohol.

Ms. Ohuche is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).





**Lilia Peng**  
ND, RN, BSN

**Lilia Peng, ND, RN, BSN**, (she/they) is a second-year Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track at the University of Washington, in Seattle, WA. Dr. Peng's primary interests are improving culturally sensitive mental health care for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and advancing health equity for marginalized groups, especially the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA+ communities. She is also interested in holistic psychiatric care and the therapeutic use of psychedelic medicines in treating mental illness and substance use. Dr. Peng's nursing experience has included working in an involuntary psychiatric hospital serving primarily homeless adults with severe and persistent mental illness.

Dr. Peng began her healthcare career as a naturopathic physician. She earned her Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND) degree at Bastyr University in Seattle, WA and completed her residency in chronic disease management at the Quest Center for Integrative Health in Portland, OR. She was inspired to pursue additional education to specialize in mental health after witnessing the significant need for psychiatric care among her patients. She plans to integrate her PMHNP education with her background in naturopathic medicine to provide holistic and integrative mental health care to underserved communities. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Nursing, Economics, and Community, Environment, and Planning (CEP) from the University of Washington.

Dr. Peng is a member of the Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses (AAPPN), Psychiatric Association of Naturopathic Physicians (PsychANP), Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians (WANP), and Psychedelic Medicine Association (PMA).



**Lisa Persad**  
MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC

**Lisa Persad, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC**, is pursuing a PhD at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, in New York City, NY. Her research focuses on trauma-related outcomes in homeless women. A board-certified psychiatric nurse practitioner, she provides community-based mental health services for underserved people of color, including homeless women and children.

Ms. Persad is actively engaged in addressing the profound impact of intergenerational trauma, early childhood trauma, racial and other interpersonal traumas that often drive anxiety and depressive disorders. She is particularly excited about the changing mental health landscape and eager to observe the effect of the World Health Organizations (WHO) inclusion of the Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD) diagnosis in the upcoming International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-11. She is optimistic that the diagnosis will facilitate greater awareness of the sequelae of trauma among mental health providers, innovative evidence-based treatment, and increased access to trauma-specific recovery services among Medicaid enrollees.

Ms. Persad has witnessed the consequences of trauma within her community, professional practice, and personal family history. Through her research and ongoing community engagement, she is deeply committed to reducing the shame and powerlessness that perpetuates ongoing cycles of trauma, poverty, and homelessness.



**Meilyn Santamaria**

MSN, RN, CNL, PHN

**Meilyn Santamaria, MSN, RN, CNL, PHN**, is a first generation Salvadoran American and a second-year Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Rush University, in Chicago, IL. Her DNP project explores a practice change in primary care, adapted to support, and improve diverse adolescent's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, while easing their transition into adulthood; adaptations are culturally relevant skills practice and integrative therapies. She believes this can empower young people to connect with and be advocates for their own, and the community's health. Ms. Santamaria's global aim is to contribute to the positive development of young people and to break down barriers to receiving culturally competent, high quality mental health care for diverse people.

Ms. Santamaria has had a long-standing interest in health care and serving underserved communities. Currently, she works as a nurse care coordinator at a clinic serving primarily urban Natives. This time has been transformative, exposing her to the guidance of Elders, Sacred Medicines, and the valuable impact connection to culture and community can have on health. Additionally, to better care for patients, coworkers, and herself, she has led employee wellness committee initiatives and trained in Mind- Body Medicine skills. Endlessly energized by the pursuit of health equity for people of color, Ms. Santamaria is also tuned in to policy and advocacy issues.

Ms. Santamaria received a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a minor in Public Health from Boston University in 2014. Then, in 2017, she received a generalist entry Master of Science in Nursing degree from Rush University where she was a Public Health Nursing Scholar and supported programming aimed at youth development.

Ms. Santamaria's professional memberships include the American Nurses Association (ANA), the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), and the American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA). She is deeply honored to be chosen as a SAMHSA MFP/ANA scholar and looks forward to collaborating with the MFP/ANA community.

## | Re-Appointed Master's Fellows FY 2021-2022



**Dante Barrett**  
MBA, BSN, RN

**Dante Barrett, MBA, RN, BSN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Anderson University in South Carolina with a December 2021 anticipated graduation. Mr. Barrett plans to use the Advanced Practice Nursing degree to serve the African American community in the treatment of substance use disorders and to maximize the mental health care and treatment of members of the community incarcerated at the local, state, and federal levels.

Previously, Mr. Barrett earned a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management from Western Governors University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina. Currently, Mr. Barrett works as a staff nurse on an adult inpatient mental health unit at a Veterans Health Administration hospital. This unit focuses on the care of veterans being treated for an acute mental health crisis, substance use disorders, and therapeutic adherence to pharmacological treatment.

Prior to Nursing, Mr. Barrett worked as a public health advisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and served in the U.S. Air Force as an emergency medical technician.

Mr. Barrett is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA).



**Michael Brown**  
BSN, RN

**Michael Brown, BSN, RN**, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, in Aurora, CO. Mr. Brown's focus is to serve the most underserved and vulnerable populations in urban and rural communities. He has a goal to help the underserved mental health population and his goal is to also establish a mental health practice that includes a mobile unit to provide services to those who do not have access to care and/or have limited or no health insurance.

Immediately after graduating from secondary school, Mr. Brown sought a position to work with individuals who have mental health conditions and developmental delays. As a nurse, he has maintained this sole focus through delivering care to psychiatric patients with acute issues and forensic psychiatric patients. Mr. Brown has excelled at all the academic institutions he has attended, graduating among the highest honors with a grade point average of Summa Cum Laude distinction. He obtained his initial degree in Health Service Administration with a certificate in Leadership, then continued his education pursuing a career in Nursing, blending the knowledge from the two degrees with an aspiration to provide the most effective and accessible mental health care. Mr. Brown is also interested in science, psychiatric research, health economics, and public speaking.

He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Society and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. He is a selectee of the Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Pi (National Society of Leadership and Success), and Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society).



**Regina Crowder-Galloway**  
MBA, MSW, BSN, RN,  
CMSRN, LCSWA

**Regina Crowder-Galloway, MBA, MSW, BSN, RN, CMSRN, LCSWA**, is in the second year of the program and expects to graduate in December 2021. Her passion is to improve the quality of life for all individuals through comprehensive programming and preventive care in underserved and disadvantaged communities. She earned her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from Cabarrus College of Health Sciences and a Bachelor of Nursing and Master of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Ms. Crowder-Galloway was inspired during her clinical and professional experience to pursue her Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner degree at the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

Ms. Crowder-Galloway has more than 30 years of health and human services experience, with three years of nursing experience at Atrium Health, and 15 years working for the Department of Social Services. Her experience includes working with Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid, food stamps, childcare, crisis units, treatment services, and adult and child protective services, as well as 12 years of providing in-home care clinical case management services to individuals and families for New Alternatives Home Health Services.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), Sigma Theta Tau International, Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses, and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).



**Rose Lopez**  
BSN, RN

**Rose Lopez, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University School of Nursing. Mrs. Lopez's goal is to develop a mobile behavioral health clinic serving communities that may encounter cultural and logistical barriers that limit access to mental healthcare.

After working for a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in primary care and witnessing mental health service disparities, Mrs. Lopez decided to focus her work on psychiatric mental health care. She currently works for a nonprofit integrated care clinic in Phoenix serving the most vulnerable individuals dually diagnosed with serious mental illness and substance use. As a member of the Assertive Community Treatment team, Mrs. Lopez is taking mental health care to the street where she is providing services to individuals with the most serious forms of mental illness. She established a partnership to offer Mental Health First Aid certification to nurses and the community. She believes her education, work experience, community involvement and passion-driven purpose will help to reduce mental health disparities and the stigma tied to obtaining mental health.

Mrs. Lopez has received multiple awards for her work with the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), including national Ambassador Awards and Outstanding member awards for her local work on the Phoenix Chapter Board of Directors. She remains an active member of NAHN where she focuses on empowering the Hispanic community and mentoring new nurses.



**Mintwab Manaye**  
BSN, RN

**Mintwab Manaye, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University, in Minneapolis, MN. Ms. Manaye's commitment to and deep-rooted passion for serving individuals with mental illness began at an early age, after she witnessed the victimization and vulnerability of mentally ill individuals because there were non-existent mental health services to access in her community.

Ms. Manaye graduated with honors from both Gateway Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and from Grand Canyon University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is currently employed by Valleywise Health, the largest provider of inpatient behavioral health care in Arizona. It is also a safety-net serving hospital providing care to the underserved communities. Ms. Manaye's employment at Valleywise has given her an opportunity to provide care for individuals with complex mental health needs in a highly culturally diverse environment. As a Clinical Resource Leader (CRL), she works closely with multidisciplinary groups, often participating in the decision-making process to help develop Special Treatment Plans and Special Behavior Plans. She has also mentored new graduate nurses, new hires, and clinical resource leaders.

Ms. Manaye has been serving communities with mental illness for over 16-years and has a strong desire and commitment to continue serving individuals with mental illnesses. She believes that her dedication, many years of service, and her educational success will help her achieve her goal of becoming a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She plans to devote the rest of her professional life to serving the underserved.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). She is also a member of Maricopa Health Foundation, a charitable and non-profit organization that provides support for basic clinical research and clinical trials, promotes and sponsors continuing medical education for healthcare professionals, supports patient and social services as they apply to and benefit Maricopa Medical Center and its constituents.



**Perla Millan-Aguilar**

BSN, RN

**Perla Millan-Aguilar, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She expects to graduate in December 2021. After previously working in the pulmonary unit at Children's Hospital Colorado, Mrs. Millan-Aguilar transitioned to the Pediatric Mental Health Institute. This department includes an inpatient psychiatric unit, eating disorder unit, and neuropsychiatric unit. She also works in pediatric home healthcare and as a Spanish interpreter throughout the Denver metropolitan area for mental health clinics, victim's advocacy organizations, and schools.

Mrs. Millan-Aguilar's current volunteer work includes Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA). CASA is a nonprofit organization of volunteers that represents the best interest of children in abuse and neglect cases. She was previously an intern at Good Health Will, a nonprofit organization that accepts donations of medical equipment and health-care supplies and provides them at no cost or at low cost to the community. This internship allowed Mrs. Millan-Aguilar to work with a variety of clients in the community, including victims of domestic violence, homeless populations, and people with substance use disorders. Her experiences have led her to understand the significance of mental health in every stage of life, and through life events.

She recognized that mental health and physical health are interconnected. Mrs. Millan-Aguilar's most profound goal is to empower and guide patients to gain the necessary skills to move from crisis to wellness, through safe and individualized care. Further, she is determined to reduce stigma by encouraging conversations about mental health, thereby embedding confidence to pursue treatment, specifically for those in rural communities and minority populations.



**Caesar Rangel**

BSN, RN

**Caesar Rangel, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University School of Nursing, in Minneapolis, MN. Mr. Rangel is dedicated to working with intergenerational and culturally diverse groups, with an emphasis on advocating for individuals in underserved communities. He is determined to be a transformational leader and make positive changes within the mental health community and healthcare profession. It is Mr. Rangel's mission to be a lifelong learner, provide exceptional patient care, and to become the best Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner he can be.

Mr. Rangel made the decision to explore psychiatric nursing after previously working in medical-surgical, telemetry, and trauma Intensive Care Units (ICU). Here he discovered his passion for the mental health and substance use community. He currently serves on an interdisciplinary team as a F/ACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Care) bilingual nurse in Phoenix, AZ.

Prior to his enrollment at Walden University, Mr. Rangel completed his certified nursing assistant (CNA) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) programs. Most recently, he completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Grand Canyon University, earning Deans and Presidents list recommendations, allowing for induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Mr. Rangel previously served as the Nominations Chair on the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), Phoenix chapter board of directors. Serving in this leadership role has allowed him to further his commitment in helping to close the gap in healthcare disparities. Mr. Rangel has also had the privilege of using his musical talent to perform the National Anthem at several Major League Baseball spring training games and opened NAHN's Annual Conference, in 2017, in Phoenix, AZ.



**Neema Shayo**  
BSN, RN

**Neema Shayo, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at California State University Long Beach School of Nursing, in Long Beach, CA. Ms. Shayo plans to use her education and experience to advocate for mental health awareness and improve the health outcomes of marginalized voices in our society. She currently works at an acute, adult psychiatric facility. Previously, she worked concurrently at a separate acute, adult and children psychiatric facility.

Ms. Shayo's dedication to nursing and education is unfaltering. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, graduating Cum Laude. Outside of academics, she has dedicated her time to serving at risk populations during her undergraduate career; helping found her university's chapter of Food Recovery Network, a nationwide organization aimed at alleviating hunger by distributing campus food to food banks. This led her to being invited to become a panelist speaker and meeting with state representatives in Washington, DC to raise awareness about health disparities and food insecurity at the first collegiate lobby day in history against food waste.

Ms. Shayo was also very active on campus, serving as the Programming Chair of the Resident Student Association. She taught recitation courses in the school of nursing and was a peer advisor for freshmen nursing students. In addition, Ms. Shayo worked as a research assistant who specialized in alleviating health disparities among African American women and children in the Pittsburgh area.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).



**Helena Addison**

MSN, RN

**Helena Addison, MSN, RN**, is a third-year PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in Philadelphia, PA. Her research is focused on incarceration as a social determinant of health and driver of mental health inequities. Her dissertation will specifically examine how incarceration history influences mental health symptom severity, health-related quality of life, health-seeking behaviors, and engagement in health care in formerly incarcerated Black men.

Ms. Addison is passionate about advancing health equity by improving mental health symptoms and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in trauma-exposed and marginalized populations. This passion has been exemplified throughout her academic, research, and clinical experiences. After completing her high school and associate degree simultaneously through a dual enrollment program, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She completed her nursing degree through the master's Entry in Nursing Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Throughout her undergraduate and graduate education, Ms. Addison has been engaged in research related to health disparities, violence, trauma, and mental health in marginalized populations. In addition to her research experiences, Ms. Addison's clinical experiences as a registered nurse at an inpatient psychiatric hospital has also informed her research interests.



**April C. Ames-Chase**

MSN, RN-BC, CARN, CNL

**April C. Ames-Chase, MSN, RN-BC, CARN, CNL**, is pursuing a PhD in Nursing focusing on Population Health at Walden University, in Minneapolis, MN. She credits her interest in healthcare from being a candy striper as a teenager in Baltimore, MD, at Provident Hospital. Ms. Ames-Chase attended Coppin State College, Helene Fuld School of Nursing. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps and received extensive nursing experience while also traveling to many countries.

Ms. Ames-Chase received numerous awards during her active-duty military service. She was awarded Mental Health Nurse of the Year while stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, in Prince George's County, MD. Under her leadership, Ms. Ames-Chase's team won Best Health Promotion Program (HPP) in the Pacific while stationed in Japan. She received Tricare Star of the Year from her innovative cost-savings health promotion programs. She was deployed overseas twice to care for wounded warriors during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ms. Ames-Chase honorably retired from the military in 2006 at the rank of Major.

As a Research Nurse Coordinator at the Institute of Surgical Research (ISR), she contributed to the publication, "A Collaborative Research System for Functional Outcomes Following Wartime Extremity Vascular Injury Patterns." She is the CEO/Owner of Musiq to My Peers, LLC, and author of the book, "A Moment in Time."

Ms. Ames-Chase is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), International Nurses Society on Addictions, Clinical Nurse Leaders Association, Association of Standardized Patient Educators, American Red Cross, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Team Rubicon, and Wounded Warrior Project.



**Marlene Brennan**

DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMNP-BC,  
APRN

**Marlene Brennan, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMNP-BC, APRN** is pursuing a PhD at Florida Atlantic University, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing (FAU), in Boca Raton, FL. Dr. Brennan's PhD research phenomenon of interest is stress-driven epigenomics among African American pregnant women. In 2016, Dr. Brennan attended the Summer Genetic Institute (SGI), an intensive month of education and laboratory training on genetics and genomics, at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and gained knowledge that informs her research focus. She is currently an Assistant Professor at FAU teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Dr. Brennan obtained her Associate Degree in nursing (ADN) from the State University of New York (SUNY) Morrisville, in New York and a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from SUC Utica-Rome, New York. She received a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the Pennsylvania State University where her thesis focused on the relationship of health care behaviors, health perception, and the use of health care service of urban African Americans. In 2012, she earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Florida Atlantic University. Her quality improvement project focused on the lifestyle management of African American women with hypertension.

Dr. Brennan began her nursing career practicing medical-surgical nursing, then pediatric nursing in New York City. She later practiced as an advanced registered nurse practitioner in primary care. She is an active member of the Florida Nurses Association, the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), the Renfrew Center, and the Association of Black Nursing Faculty (ABNF) where she has presented both podium and poster presentations.



**Keith Carter**

BSN, RN

**Keith Carter, BSN, RN**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a focus on Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) specialty at Rush University College of Nursing, in Chicago, IL. He is in his final year of the program and his anticipated graduation is August 2022. His DNP scholarly clinical project is to implement a violence risk assessment tool on a community hospital psychiatric unit on Chicago's South Side.

Mr. Carter graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2017, becoming the first African American male recipient of the Caroline F. Rupert Nursing Award, which honors outstanding work during the four years of undergraduate study in nursing and is awarded to one student as determined by university faculty. He began his career at Rush University Medical Center, working as a child psychiatric RN where he provided individualized care to children with emotional and behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and learning disabilities. Transitioning roles within Rush, he began to work as a community health RN, providing outreach services for clients with psychiatric illness and medical comorbidities.

His passion for addressing mental illness, specifically within the African American community is profound. He works actively to further understand the African American experience with mental illness and to help guide future clinical implications to increase culturally sensitive care. This has led to his long-term goal to eradicate health disparities and stigma associated with mental illness in the African American community. Moreover, Mr. Carter strives to understand the complexity of working with traumatized youth in the community. His research aims to better support and educate providers who work with these children.

Mr. Carter's professional affiliations include the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNR). He is excited and grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the SAMHSA MFP at the American Nurses Association.





**Griselle B. Estrada**  
MSN, RN

**Griselle B. Estrada, MSN, RN**, is a wife, mother, psychiatric-mental health nurse, and nurse educator. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor University's Louise Herrington School of Nursing. Currently, she is focusing on her dissertation research to complete a PhD in Nursing, with a concentration on Transcultural Nursing at Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, PA. Her research interests include culturally congruent evidence-based interventions that promote mental wellbeing and prevent suicide in Puerto Rican communities.

Ms. Estrada obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Puerto Rico. She initiated her career as a medical-surgical nurse in Puerto Rico before moving to the United States. Years of volunteer service as a ministry leader in the faith community helped her to identify a need for Spanish-speaking mental health professionals. She chose to switch her career path, received a Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Miami, and became a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. In 2006, Ms. Estrada discovered her passion for teaching and transitioned into full-time nursing education.

Ms. Estrada is thrilled to be part of the SAMHSA MFP/ANA family! *"Being appointed as a SAMHSA MFP/ANA Fellow has facilitated incredible opportunities for mentoring, networking, support, and training; all have contributed to my professional development as a Hispanic nurse leader."*



**Kimesha Grant**  
MPH, RN, BSN

**Kimesha Grant, MPH, RN, BSN** is a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, in Baltimore, MD. Her overarching goal is to support the implementation of mental health and substance use disorders into primary care, especially among underserved populations. Mrs. Grant is also interested in examining the role of mental health disorders and the ways they influence the outcomes of other chronic comorbidities. She understands that in order to have sustainable health improvement for all populations, interventions will require a health equity lens with a key focus on social determinants of health. To that end, she is committed to reducing health disparities across the mental health spectrum through clinical care, education, and implementation science research. She obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology and Neuroscience from the Harriet Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Emory University, and an MPH in Global Health from George Washington University.

Currently, Ms. Grant works in population health and equity at a federally qualified health center in Washington, DC. In her current role, she strives to improve health outcomes at the population level by using data for care gap identification and program evaluation. She has worked within the healthcare field for over a decade conducting research, supporting quality improvement projects, and clinically as a nurse.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the American Nurses Association (ANA), and the American Public Health Association (APHA).



**Shelby Husband**  
BSN, RN

**Shelby Husband, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN. His quality improvement project will focus on suicide prevention in juvenile detention centers and improving the quality of culturally competent mental health providers. His anticipated graduation date is May 2022. Upon graduation, Mr. Husband will focus his practice on expanding mental health services to minority youth and improving mental health in the public school system for children and adolescents.

Mr. Husband's background includes nearly two-years as an Emergency Room Registered Nurse and two-years as a Psychiatric Registered Nurse serving both adult, child, and adolescent populations. He has also served in the United States Navy Reserve for nine years as a Hospital Corpsman working in an array of different settings such as the Emergency Department (ED), Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), psychiatric units, obstetrician, and gynecology (OB/GYN), and more.

Mr. Husband is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).



**Roxanne Jeffries-Baxter**

MSN, RN, GNP-BC, FNP-BC,  
PMHNP

**Roxanne Jeffries-Baxter, MSN, RN, GNP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHNP**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at Case Western Reserve University (CRWU) Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, in Cleveland, OH. Ms. Jeffries-Baxter is interested in studying effects of psychological trauma on adults with an opiate use disorder.

Ms. Jeffries-Baxter graduated from Philadelphia public schools and went on to receive her first Masters of Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, she practices in an outpatient primary psychiatric care clinic that also treats clients with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental illness. Ms. Jeffries-Baxter's Advanced Psychiatric Nursing (APN) experience includes both medical and mental health practice across many settings including, long term-care, home care, and corrections. Additionally, she has practiced in both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric and substance use treatment facilities. Ms. Jeffries-Baxter is committed to doing her part to optimize the health of her community and helping persons recover from the disease of addiction and trauma.



**Lisvel Alexandra Matos**

MSN, RN, FNP-C, WHNP-BC

**Lisvel Alexandra Matos, MSN, RN, FNP-C, WHNP-BC**, is pursuing a PhD at Duke University School of Nursing, in Durham, NC. Her research area of interest is understanding the mental health, substance use, and HIV syndemic among Latinx LGBTQIA+, and to developing multilevel interventions to address this syndemic. She is also interested in developing strategies to increase provider knowledge of the sociocultural factors that impact Latinx LGBTQIA+ health and to improve the quality of patient-provider interactions for these groups.

Ms. Matos earned her Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) in 2012 from Central Piedmont Community College, in Charlotte, NC. She began her career as a staff RN working with adolescents in a behavioral health facility while earning her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner in 2016 and in 2019 her Post-Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate. Throughout her career, she has worked in community-based settings as a provider and advocate for the Latinx community.

Ms. Matos is also a Margolis Health Policy Fellow at the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy. She currently serves as a PhD Student Representative for Duke University School of Nursing.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Association of Nursing Practitioners (AANP), National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), and Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI).



**Jessica N. McCullough**

MSN, RN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC

**Jessica N. McCullough, MSN, RN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC**, is a fourth-year PhD student at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, in Cleveland, OH. Her research focuses on co-occurring substance use and mental health factors that impact treatment outcomes in underserved populations. Her other research interests are mental health stigma in the African American community, mental health disparities in minority communities, and barriers to mental health and medication-assisted treatment in underserved populations.

Ms. McCullough graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Akron and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from the University of Cincinnati to become a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

In 2014 during the opioid epidemic, as a FNP nurse in primary care at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) in downtown Cleveland, OH, she was able to develop and lead an office base opioid treatment (OBOT) program with an interdisciplinary team of social workers, nurses, and medical assistants. This program was funded for two-years by the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services and expanded substance use treatment and access to the downtown Cleveland area. Developing the OBOT program sparked Ms. McCullough's passion for mental health and substance use treatment. Therefore, she returned to the University of Cincinnati to obtain her Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) certification. After graduating, she was accepted into University Hospitals Addiction Medicine Fellowship. During her fellowship, she was also educated and certified as an Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist which is a complimentary treatment method for addiction, trauma, and behavioral health. Ms. McCullough currently provides mental health and substance use treatment at a FQHC in her community, where she serves a disadvantaged and minority adult population.

Her professional memberships include the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Alpha Mu Chapter at Case Western Reserve University, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.



**Brianna M. Singleton**

MPH, RN, PHH, AGPCNP-BC

**Brianna M. Singleton, MPH, RN, PHH, AGPCNP-BC**, is pursuing a PhD at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Her research focuses on the unique experience of occupational burnout among machine-based workers in the transportation industry. Little is known about the mental burden machine-based workers face, nor is there sufficient research understanding why there are higher rates of tobacco and substance use in this population. As an Adult-Geriatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and nurse researcher with a specialty in Occupational and Environmental Health, Ms. Singleton recognizes that building partnerships with local and national organizations, specifically industries that have high concentrations of workers who are vulnerable to increased morbidity and mortality because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, immigration status, or disability, is vital in achieving health equity, social equality, and a healthier Earth.

Ms. Singleton is currently working as a nurse practitioner at an occupational health clinic, St James Infirmary, which provides services exclusively for current and former sex workers. She also works as a nurse practitioner at San Francisco Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center that provides holistic and integrated care using a compassionate and harm-reduction praxis. Her desire is to provide high-quality patient care as a nurse practitioner and to conduct evidence-based research as a nurse scientist to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of people who have been marginalized by institutional racism and social inequality.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of San Francisco. She is a proud alum of UCSF's Master Entry Program in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing program.

## | Re-Appointed Doctoral Fellows FY 2021-2022



**Melissa Anne Smith**

MSN, RN, APN, PMHNP-BC

**Melissa Smith, MSN, RN, APN, PMHNP-BC**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at the University of South Alabama. She is passionate about increasing competence of care for minorities with mental illness and eradicating stigma. Her goal is to develop and integrate a standardized mental healthcare model. She is the Mental Health Educator and Prevention and Management of Disruptive Behavior Program Coordinator for a Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center.

Ms. Smith was initially licensed as an RN when she earned an associate degree in Nursing (ADN) from Mercer County Community College. She started her career as a staff nurse with Trenton Psychiatric Hospital while completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing Education from Thomas Edison State University. She completed a post-master's certificate to become a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner in December 2019 and is currently caring for veterans with severe mental illness.

Ms. Smith is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, (APNA), and the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS).



**Jovon Taylor**

MSN-ED, RN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

**Jovon Taylor, MSN-ED, RN, APRN, PMHNP-BC**, is currently pursuing a PhD in nursing at Georgia State University, in Atlanta, GA. Her research interest is understanding resilience factors in substance use abstinence among African American male survivors of childhood abuse.

Mrs. Taylor is a master's prepared nurse educator with over a decade of experience educating ADN and BSN nursing students and serving as a unit-based preceptor/mentor to licensed nurses and new nurse graduates. Currently, Mrs. Taylor is employed as a board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, providing behavioral healthcare to children, adolescents, and adults in metro Atlanta.



**Thao Tran**

DNP, RN-BC, APRN, FNP-BC, PHN

**Thao Tran, DNP, RN-BC, APRN, FNP-BC, PHN**, is a second-year graduate student enrolled in the PhD program at Georgia State University, in Atlanta, GA. She is simultaneously enrolled in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program at the University of Michigan. Her primary interests are in improving health outcomes for those diagnosed with a developmental disability and families who care for children and adults with a severe developmental disability.

While Dr. Tran is interested in intellectual and developmental disability, in general, she is currently focusing on autism spectrum disorder (ASD). According to the World Health Organization, people with ASD are much more vulnerable in terms of receiving help during a pandemic, humanitarian emergencies, or obtaining appropriate medical and mental health care. Despite the need for psychosocial interventions, not all families and their adult or child with a severe developmental disability can easily access and receive services to improve mental health outcomes.

With a history of working with the nation's most difficult populations (i.e., Veterans, individuals with developmental disabilities, prisoners), Dr. Tran has continuously demonstrated her commitment to empower vulnerable populations who cannot easily communicate or access appropriate supports and evidence-based resources. She was selected as a regional advisory committee board member of Central Valley, California while engaged on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She also volunteers on the San Joaquin Valley Neurodevelopmental Collaborative and as a special education advocate with the California Department of General Services, Office of Administrative Hearings.

Dr. Tran is an active member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society in Nursing, California chapter of the American Nurses Association, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).



**Shyeasha "Shy" Wilson**

MSN, RN, APRN-BC, PMHNP-BC,  
HNB-BC, CPC

**Shyeasha "Shy" Wilson, MSN, RN, APRN-BC, PMHNP-BC, HNB-BC, CPC**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at Regis College, in Weston, MA. She is a champion of holistic health, whole-person care that addresses the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of individuals and families across the lifespan. She is a three-time recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

Ms. Wilson's phenomenon of interest is educating behavioral health providers, majority non-minority, to acknowledge, assess and apply clients, majority minority, worldview, cultural values, and strengths to treatment using evidence-based cultural frameworks. The cultural competency intervention proposes to increase patient satisfaction, improve treatment adherence, and ultimately improve patient outcomes. The vehicle for change is increasing mental health professional's awareness, knowledge, skills, and desire to work with African American women in crisis.

Ms. Wilson has extensive knowledge of mental health care and services after working for 16 years in the field as a psychiatric nurse specialist, case manager, military liaison, educator, and advanced practice nurse. Her experiences caring for minority chronic, persistently mentally ill clients, veterans, adolescents and diverse underserved adults in inpatient, outpatient, dual diagnosis, and crisis stabilization settings gives her a unique perspective and preparation for the future of healthcare.

Her professional memberships include the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA), and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).



**Serge Wandji**

MSN, RN-BC, MBA, NEA-BC, CNL

**Serge Wandji, MSN, RN-BC, MBA, NEA-BC, CNL**, is pursuing a PhD at the University of South Carolina, in Columbia, SC. His research will focus on substance use disorders (SUD) among Rural Black men. An educated and board-certified Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) specializing in Psychiatric and Mental Health, Mr. Wandji was instrumental in the development and implementation of SUD prevention and treatment programs in both the states of New Jersey and Texas.

Mr. Wandji came into nursing as a second career, in search of something more fulfilling, with the intent and aspiration of initiating, developing, and leading the implementation of population health programs among the most vulnerable, for sake of common good. After graduating from Western Kentucky University with a Master's in Business Administration (MBA), he worked in the business and financial services industries for 10 years before deciding to become a nurse. He then completed his nursing education at Seton Hall University in New Jersey with a master's degree in nursing (MSN) specializing as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL). Mr. Wandji brings into nursing his proven leadership and managerial skills; his diverse cultural, educational, and professional background, and his passion for social justice.

More recently, while working as a CNL, at a local Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in South Carolina, Mr. Wandji initiated, developed, and successfully led the implementation of a facility-wide project on the Culture of Engagement, with an emphasis on veterans with SUDS. The project resulted in a significant increase in the veteran's activation level, which in turn enabled individuals to develop the coping skills and the willingness to manage their own addiction experience. The abstract Mr. Wandji prepared for that project titled, Leadership Role in Implementing a Culture of Engagement, was selected for presentation at the prestigious American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) 2018 Pathway to Excellence National Conference.



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