

**SAMHSA**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration



**ANA**

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION



**20/21**

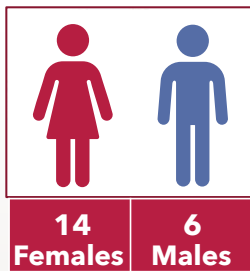
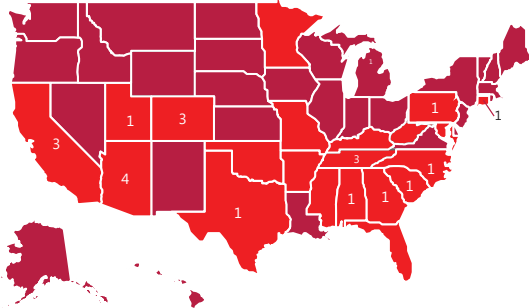
**MEET THE  
SAMHSA  
MFP/ANA  
FELLOWS**

## Introducing the SAMHSA MFP ANA Fellows FY 20-21

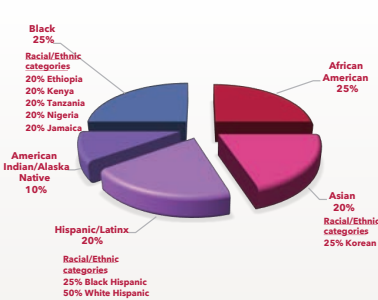
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) at the American Nurses Association (ANA) is excited to announce the class of 20/21 Psychiatric Nurse Fellows. These newest Fellows, who are at various stages in their career, are joining an evolving, thriving Network of scholars who are actively engaged in addressing

behavioral health equity among racial and ethnic minority and underserved groups. They are clinicians, researchers, visionaries, change agents and health policy advocates making a difference in their work and a better place in their communities all over the world. They are the heart of the SAMHSA MFP/ANA. Read their inspiring stories and learn more about their demographics.

### 2020 - 2021 MASTERS COHORT



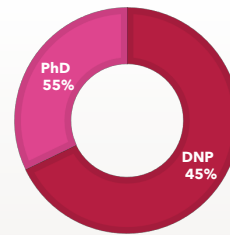
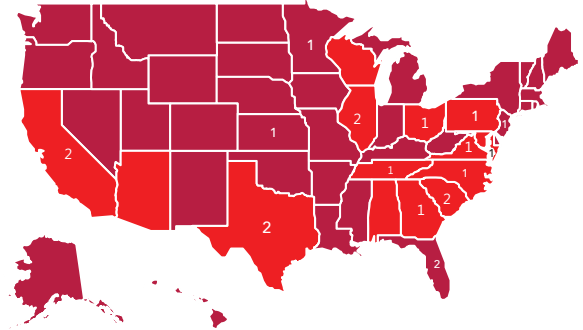
#### ETHNICITY



Minority status in area(s) other than race/ethnicity: N/A

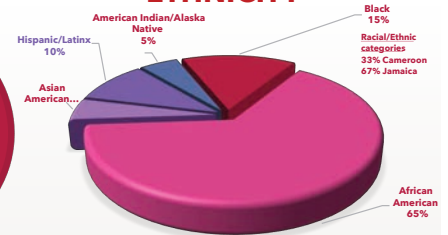
Average age of applicants: 35

### 2020 - 2021 DOCTORAL COHORT



Minority status in area(s) other than race/ethnicity: 11% (1) of this cohort self-identified as LGBTQ.

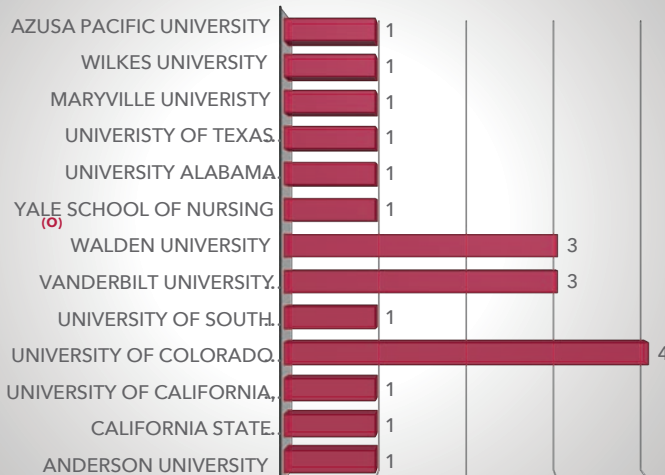
#### ETHNICITY



Average age of applicants: 40

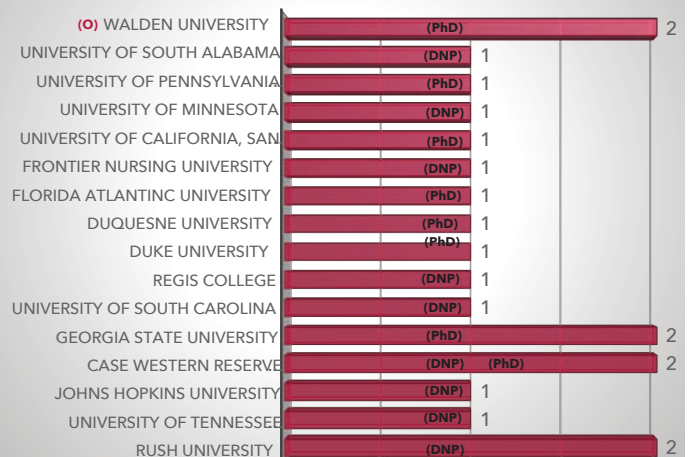
17 Females, 3 Males

#### University/Degree



\*21% (3) OF THIS COHORT IS ENROLLED ONLINE.  
○ - ONLINE PROGRAMS

#### University/Degree



\*11% (1) OF THIS COHORT IS ENROLLED ONLINE.  
○ - ONLINE PROGRAMS



**E. Uzoamaka Aneke-Gratia**

MPH, RN

**E. Uzoamaka Aneke-Gratia, MPH RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Yale University School of Nursing. Prior to her enrollment at Yale, Ms. Aneke-Gratia was an Alcohol and Drug Research Associate for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in Washington, DC. Ms. Aneke-Gratia often worked on research and data aggregation for the organization and helped various prevention teams in meeting long-term goals and objectives focused on targeted efforts (workforce development, opioid prevention, marijuana prevention). During this time, she completed her master's in Public Health/Epidemiology at the University of South Florida.

Ms. Aneke-Gratia received her bachelor's in Health Science with a Public Health concentration in 2011 from Stony Brook University in Long Island, New York. In the fall of that year, she began her SAMHSA/CSAP Fellowship with the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health in Delaware. During that time, Ms. Aneke-Gratia supported the state prevention team in managing the community-based organizations providing substance use prevention services to the city of Wilmington, and to New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties. Ms. Aneke-Gratia also strongly supported the state's general prevention and the Fetal Alcohol Task Force and assisted in statewide campaigns focused on underage drinking prevention initiatives.

An avid proponent of therapy, her goal is to offer low-cost therapy to communities of color and raise awareness of the role therapy can play in improving everyday life.



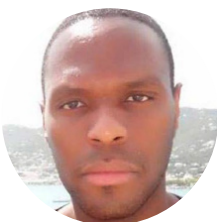
**Dante Barrett**

MBA, BSN, RN

**Dante Barrett, MBA, BSN, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Anderson University in South Carolina. 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 and served in the U.S. Air Force as an emergency medical technician. 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.

Mr. Barrett is a member of the American Nurses Association.



**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. He has a great desire to help the underserved mental health population. Immediately upon graduating from secondary school, he sought a position to work with individuals who had mental health conditions and developmental delays. As a nurse he has maintained this sole focus through delivering care to acute psychiatric patients and forensic psychiatric patients. His focus as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner is to serve the most underserved and vulnerable populations in urban and rural communities. He would like to establish a mental health practice that includes a mobile unit to provide services to those who do not have access and/or have limited or no health insurance.

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 to pursue a career in Nursing to blend the knowledge from the two degrees with an aspiration to provide the most effective and accessible mental health care.

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 Sigma Alpha Pi (National Society of Leadership and Success) and Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society). He is very interested in science, psychiatric research, and economics and public speaking.



**Regina Crowder-Galloway**  
MPH, RN

**Regina Crowder-Galloway, MBA/MSW, BSN, RN, CMSRN, LCSWA**, earned her Associate Degree in Nursing 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. She is in the second year of the program. Her passion is to improve the quality of life for all individuals through comprehensive programming and preventive care in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

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, child care, 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 Sigma Theta Tau International, the American Nurses Association, Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses, and the National Association of Social Workers.

---



**Elaine Do**  
RN

**Elaine Do, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN). She is a member of VUSN's Asian American/Pacific Islander Student Nurses Group. Ms. Do earned her bachelor's degrees in both Integrative Biology and Psychology at UC Berkeley in May 2017. She has always known that she wanted to work in a field where she could combine her interests in healthcare, psychology, and pediatrics, which brought her to the field of Nursing.

Prior to her enrollment at Vanderbilt, Ms. Do worked as a behavioral interventionist and provided Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy to children who were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or developmental delays. Ms. Do has also volunteered at several hospitals, including St. Joseph's Hospital in Orange, CA, and Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland, CA. She also has experience tutoring and mentoring underserved youth in after-school programs. After graduating from VUSN, Ms. Do plans to provide mental health services to children and adolescents from racial and ethnic minorities, especially those who have difficulty accessing healthcare in underserved areas.

---



**Amelia Lee**  
RN

**Amelia Lee, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN). She serves as the co-president of VUSN's Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Student Nurses Group and as the AAPI representative on VUSN Graduate Council. Her expected graduation date is August 2021.

Prior to her enrollment at VUSN, Ms. Lee was a research assistant at the Building Knowledge Lab, which sought to discover how children and adults learn new information. She received her B.A. from Vanderbilt University, double majoring in Psychology and Child Development. After her undergraduate degree, she worked as a mental health case manager at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) where she facilitated bi-directional physical and mental health care.

Upon receiving her PMHNP certification, Ms. Lee plans to work with those who are underserved, with a focus on Korean Americans and immigrant populations. She hopes to become part of the movement to break the stigma surrounding mental health and provide greater access to mental health care to those who may not speak English as their first language.





**Rose Lopez**

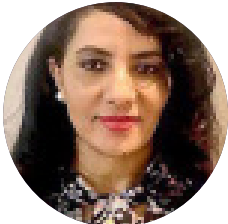
BSN, RN

**Rose Lopez, BSN, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University School of Nursing. After previously 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.

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

Mrs. Lopez serves as a summer-camp nurse and plans to develop her skills in wilderness adventure therapy with youth and adults to boost their mental health resilience. Mrs. Lopez would also like to develop a mobile behavioral health clinic serving communities that struggle to access traditional clinics.

Mrs. Lopez believes that 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 services.



**Mintwab Manaye**

RN

**Mintwab Manaye, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University. 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 nonexistent mental health services to access in her community. Ms. Manaye has been serving communities with mental illness for over 15 years.

Ms. Manaye graduated with honors from both Gateway Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing and from Grand Canyon University with a B.S. in Nursing. She is currently employed by Valleywise Health, a safety-net hospital serving the underserved communities. Valleywise Health is also the largest provider of inpatient behavioral health care in Arizona.

Ms. Manaye's current employment has given her an opportunity to provide care for individuals with complex mental health needs in a highly culturally diverse environment. She has also mentored new graduate nurses, new hires, and clinical resource leaders. Ms. Manaye has a strong commitment and desire 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 Nurse Practitioner and plans to devote the rest of her professional life serving the underserved.

Ms. Manaye is a member of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) and the American Nurses Association. She is also a member of Maricopa Health Foundation, a charitable and non-profit organization.



**Perla Millan**

RN

**Perla Millan, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. After previously working in the pulmonary unit at Children's Hospital Colorado, Mrs. Millan transitioned to the Pediatric Mental Health Institute. This department includes an inpatient psychiatric unit, eating disorder unit, and neuropsychiatric unit. Mrs. Millan 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.

Her 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. Mrs. Millan 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 to work with a variety of clients in the community, including victims of domestic violence, homeless populations, and people with substance use disorders. Mrs. Millan's 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'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, Mrs. Millan 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.



**Christine Nguyen**

RN

**Christine Nguyen, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN). She serves as a student representative on the VUSN Diversity and Equity Committee and is a member of VUSN's Asian American/Pacific Islander Student Nurses Group. Ms. Nguyen graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Psychology and minors in Education and Dance/Performance Studies.

As a co-chair of the Mental Health Coalition at UC Berkeley, Ms. Nguyen was involved in campus policy efforts to decrease the stigma associated with obtaining mental health services and to increasing service accessibility. She also served as a lab manager for the Idiographic Dynamics Lab at UC Berkeley, a clinical psychology lab focused on the personalization of behavioral interventions.

Prior to attending VUSN, Ms. Nguyen worked as a community services specialist for Momentum for Health, Santa Clara County's largest nonprofit provider of mental health services. In her role as a case manager, she provided mental health rehabilitation services and connected patients to community resources, servicing both monolingual Vietnamese and English-speaking populations.

Upon completion of the PMHNP program, Ms. Nguyen intends to continue to work in community mental health, providing treatment to underserved and displaced populations.



**Emmanuel Onywera**

RN

**Emmanuel Onywera, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing (UCSF). He is a recent recipient of the Deans Mentorship Award and Excellence at UCSF for his outstanding effort in guiding and helping other students succeed. He is currently completing his psychiatric clinical residency at the UCSF Citywide Community Clinic in San Francisco, CA.

Prior to his enrollment at UCSF, Mr. Onywera, received a B.S. degree in Kinesiology from San Diego Christian College (SDCC). While on campus at SDCC, he volunteered and served the homeless in downtown San Diego through the SALT program. He also served as a resident assistant during his undergraduate studies at SDCC and mentored other students.

Mr. Onywera has served a clinically, racially, and culturally diverse range of patients in the healthcare field through his work at the Progress Foundation Acute Diversion Unit and has worked with marginalized adults at Dore Urgent Care Community Psychiatric Clinic in San Francisco since 2019. He recently accepted another per diem position at Willow Rock Crisis Stabilization Unit where he works with underserved and marginalized youths and families in Alameda county, CA. Mr. Onywera believes the combination of his passion, education, and clinical experience will help him become a leader in the psychiatric mental-health community and provide him with the platform and resources to advocate for the marginalized and under-represented populations throughout the world. Mr. Onywera is an active member of Sigma Theta Tau's Nursing Honor Society.



**Caesar Rangel**

BSN, RN

**Caesar Rangel BSN, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Walden University School of Nursing. After previously working in medical-surgical, telemetry, and trauma ICU, Mr. Rangel made the decision to explore psychiatric nursing. He discovered through his exploration a passion for the mental health and substance use community. He currently serves on an interdisciplinary team as a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Care (FACT) bilingual nurse in Phoenix, AZ. Mr. Rangel enjoys working with multigenerational and culturally diverse groups, with an emphasis on advocating for individuals in underserved communities.

Prior to his enrollment at Walden University, Mr. Rangel completed both Certified Nursing Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse programs. Most recently, he completed his BSN degree at Grand Canyon University, earning Dean's List and President's List recommendations, allowing for induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Mr. Rangel currently serves as Nominations Chair on the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) Phoenix chapter board of directors. Serving in this leadership role has allowed Mr. Rangel to further his commitment to helping close the gap in healthcare disparities. He is determined to be a transformational leader and make positive changes within the mental health community and healthcare profession. It is his mission to be a lifelong learner, provide exceptional patient care, and become the best PMHNP he can be.

He has had the privilege of performing the National Anthem at several MLB spring training games and opened NAHN's 2017 annual conference.



**Neema Shayo**

RN

**Neema Shayo, RN**, is a first-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the California State University Long Beach School of Nursing. Ms. Shayo earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, graduating Cum Laude. During her undergraduate career, Ms. Shayo helped found and was on the executive board of her university's chapter of Food Recovery Network, a nationwide collegiate organization aimed at alleviating hunger by distributing campus food to local food banks. She was a panelist speaker and met with state representatives in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about health disparities and food insecurity at the first collegiate lobby day against food waste in history.

Ms. Shayo also served as the Programming Chair of the Resident Student Association. In the School of Nursing, Ms. Shayo taught recitation courses and was a peer advisor for freshmen nursing students. In addition, she was a research assistant who specialized in alleviating health disparities among African American women and children in the greater Pittsburgh area. Ms. Shayo worked directly with community members to provide education and resources. She also previously worked concurrently at a separate acute, adult and children's psychiatric facility.

Ms. Shayo currently works at an acute, adult psychiatric facility. Her dedication to Nursing and education is unfaltering. She hopes to use her previous and continuing experience to advocate for mental health awareness and improve the health outcomes of marginalized voices in our society.

She is an active member of the American Nurses Association and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



**Alli Sotomayor**

BSN, RN

**Alli Sotomayor BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Colorado School of Nursing, Anschutz Medical Campus. Prior to her enrollment at the University of Colorado, she volunteered in various clinical settings that included the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) at the University of Utah Hospital, community education fairs, nursing conferences, and as a nurse ambassador to increase resilience among nursing staff. During these volunteer experiences, Ms. Sotomayor also observed first-hand the debilitating effects of a mental health disorder on a close family member. These personal experiences ignited her passion to pursue a career in nursing as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

After working in a medical-surgical unit at the University of Utah Hospital, Ms. Sotomayor transferred to the Treatment Resistant Mood Disorders Clinic at the University Neuropsychiatric Institute, focusing on Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) therapy, Electroconvulsive (ECT) therapy, and Ketamine treatments to pursue her passion for the psychiatric population in her community. She will focus on mood and personality disorders, improving current diagnostic practices for these disorders, and providing communal and professional education for underserved areas targeting harmful mental health biases and negative stigma. Upon completion of the PMHNP program, she plans to provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate psychiatric healthcare for the Asian/Hispanic and immigrant community.

Ms. Sotomayor is an active member of the American Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, and the Colorado Nurses Association.



## | Newly Appointed Doctoral Fellows FY 2020-2021



**Keith Carter**

BSN, RN

**Keith Carter, BSN, RN** is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) at Rush University College of Nursing, Chicago, IL. He is in his third year of the program and anticipated graduation is August 2022. His DNP scholarly clinical project is to implement an educational module, which includes evidenced-based de-escalation and milieu management strategies to improve restraint and de-escalation practices, on a community hospital psychiatric unit on Chicago's South Side.

Mr. Carter's 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 help guide future clinical implications to increase culturally sensitive care. His long-term goal is to eradicate health disparities and stigma associated with mental illness in the African American community. Mr. Carter also puts efforts towards understanding the complexity of working with traumatized youth in the community. His research aims to better support and train providers who work with these children.

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 then began his career at Rush University Medical Center, working as a child psychiatric RN. He provides individualized care to children with emotional and behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and learning disabilities. He also works at UChicago Ingalls Memorial Hospital on an inpatient psychiatric unit providing care to a range of acutely ill patients.

Mr. Carter is a member of the American Nurses Association and the Midwest Nursing Research Society.



**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 clinical 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.

Mr. Husband's clinical background consists of almost two years working as an emergency room registered nurse and two years working as a psychiatric registered nurse serving both adult and child and adolescent populations. Mr. Husband 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 ED, ENT, psychiatric units, OB/GYN, and more. Additionally, he is a member of the American Nurses Association and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

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.



**Kimesha Linton**

MPH, BSN, RN

**Kimesha Linton, MPH, BSN, RN** is a first-year Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Her overarching goal is to support the implementation of mental health and substance use disorders into primary care, especially among underserved populations. In addition, Ms. Linton is interested in examining the role of mental health disorders and the ways they influence the outcomes of other chronic comorbidities. She understands that 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 of scientific research.

Ms. Linton currently works in population health and quality at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) 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 in the healthcare field for over a decade conducting research, supporting quality improvement projects, and working clinically as a nurse.

Ms. Linton 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 Epidemiology from George Washington University. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, and the American Public Health Association.



**Lisvel Alexandra Matos**

MSN, FNP-C, WHNP-BC

**Lisvel Alexandra Matos, MSN, FNP-C, WHNP-BC**, is pursuing a PhD at Duke University, School of Nursing, in Durham NC. Her area of research interest is understanding the mental health, substance abuse, 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. Lisvel earned her ADN from Central Piedmont Community College (2012) in Charlotte, NC. She began her career as a staff RN working with adolescents in a behavioral health facility while earning her BSN from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2013). Lisvel pursued graduate studies at Duke University where she earned her MSN as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (2016) and her Post-Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate (2019). Throughout her career, she has worked in community-based settings as a provider and advocate for the Latinx community.

Ms. Lisvel is also a Margolis Health Policy Fellow at the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy. She currently serves on the Dean's Student Advisory Council and as a PhD Student Representative for Duke University School of Nursing. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Nursing Practitioners, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, and Sigma Theta Tau International.



**Jessica N. McCullough**

MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC

**Jessica N. McCullough, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC**, is a third-year PhD student at Case Western Reserve University, at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, in Cleveland, OH. Her research focuses on co-occurring substance abuse 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 BSN from the University of Akron and an MSN from the University of Cincinnati to become a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). In 2014, during the opioid epidemic, as an FNP in primary care at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in downtown, Cleveland, OH, she was able to develop and lead an office-based 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 & Mental Health Services and expanded substance abuse treatment and access to the downtown Cleveland area. Developing the OBOT program sparked a passion for mental health and substance abuse treatment; as a result, Ms. McCullough returned to the University of Cincinnati to obtain her PMHNP certification. After graduating, she was accepted into the University Hospitals Addiction Medicine Fellowship. During her fellowship, she was also trained and certified as an Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist, which is a complimentary treatment method for addiction, trauma, and behavioral health.

Ms. McCullough provides mental health and substance abuse treatment at an FQHC in her community, where she serves a disadvantaged and minority adult population. She is also passionate about teaching, which is evident from her substantial teaching history in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs and her podium presentations. She is a Medication -Assisted Treatment (MAT) champion in the Master of Science in Nursing program at Ursuline College. The Utilizing Interdisciplinary Training to Educate and increase Access to MAT Project expands current student knowledge of substance abuse and promotes students to obtain a DATA waiver for MAT after graduation.

Ms. McCullough is a member of several organizations, including the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Alpha Mu Chapter at Case Western Reserve University, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.



**Jovon Taylor**

MSN-ED, RN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

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



**Thao Tran**

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

**Thao Tran, DNP, RN-BC, APRN, FNP-BC, PHN**, is a first-year student enrolled in the PhD program at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia and simultaneously enrolled in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner 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 she 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), Ms. 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 California Department of General Services, Office of Administrative Hearings.

Ms. Tran is an active member of the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, California chapter of the American Nurses Association, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



**Serge Wandji**

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

**Serge Wandji, MSN, RN-BC, MBA, NEA-BC, CNL**, is currently in his first year of pursuing a PhD at the University of South Carolina, in Columbia, SC. His research will focus on Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) prevention and treatment among underserved Black men in rural areas. Another population of interest is the Black African and Caribbean (BAC) communities displaced in the United States. As a trained and board-certified Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) specializing in SUD among underserved minority populations, Mr. Wandji was instrumental in the development and implementation of SUD prevention and treatment programs in both Houston and Dallas TX.

More recently, while working as a CNL in an inpatient psychiatric and mental health unit at a local 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 SUD. The project resulted in a significant increase in the veteran activation level, which in turn enabled individuals to develop the skills and 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.



**Shyeasha "Shy" Wilson**

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

**Shyeasha "Shy" Wilson, MSN, APRN-BC, PMHNP-BC, HNB-BC, CPC** is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Regis College in Weston, MA. She is a champion of holistic health, which is whole-person approach to care that addresses the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of individuals and families across the lifespan.

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 by reducing thirty-day readmission rates.

Ms. Wilson has extensive knowledge of mental health care and services after working for 15 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. Ms. Wilson is a two-time recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses and a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA), and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). She remains active in her community through mentor programs and affordable housing projects.





**Dayanna Dias**

BSN, RN

**Dayanna Dias, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of South Alabama. She is expected to graduate in December 2020. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Oral Roberts University. She has worked as a registered nurse for five years and has a passion for mental health. She is Latina from Brazilian descent and speaks fluent Portuguese and Spanish. Mrs. Dias is currently a clinical registered nurse working at a psychiatric hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has also worked as an Emergency Room (ER) nurse where she focused on using her psychiatric skills to improve patients' experiences in the ER. Mrs. Dias plans to use her advance practice nursing degree to serve the Hispanic/Latino community using her bilingual/cultural skills and knowledge to provide culturally competent integrated mental health care.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association, and actively volunteers at local churches that primarily serve the Hispanic/Latino community in Tulsa Ok. She frequently helps to interpret and serves as a cultural broker for Hispanic/Latino patients in the hospital where she works.



**Lamara Ford**

MSW, RN, BSN

**Lamara Ford, MSW, RN, BSN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, CO. Ms. Ford is currently a staff registered nurse at Denver Health in the Psychiatric Emergency Room where she completes psychiatric evaluations for children, adolescents, adults, and elderly individuals in crisis. She is passionate about providing care to vulnerable and underserved populations and plans to work in community mental health services after graduation.

She earned her master's degree in Social Work at Columbia University in New York, NY. Upon graduation, she started her career in outpatient services for individuals with both mental health and substance abuse disorders. Following this experience, she worked in a psychiatric emergency room where she was motivated to pursue a career as a psychiatric nurse with the goal of becoming an advanced practice provider. She chose nursing as a second career because of her desire to help others by providing holistic and comprehensive mental health care.

Mrs. Ford is a member of the American Nurses Association and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



**Juan Ramon Herrera**

BSN, RN

**Juan Ramon Herrera, BSN, RN**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Maryville University in St. Louis, Missouri. He expects to graduate in August 2021. He earned his bachelor's degree in Nursing from Chamberlain University in August 2017. Upon graduation with his advanced degree his goal is to provide mental health services to minority adolescent, young adults, and older adults in underserved locations. Mr. Herrera has always had a passion for wanting to make a difference in the world.

He is member of the American Nurses Association and is a former member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN). He is passionate about being a volunteer in activities that give him a chance to give back to the community.



**Carolyn Jackson**

MBA, RN

**Carolyn Jackson MBA, RN**, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at Wilkes University's Passan School of Nursing. She expects to graduate in December 2020.

Since completing the basic nursing program at Montgomery College, Maryland, Ms. Jackson has been providing mental health services as a psychiatric nurse to children, adolescents, and adults in various settings. Upon graduation from her PMHNP program, she plans to focus on providing mental health services to children and adolescents in underserved communities.

Prior to her entry into the field of Nursing, Ms. Jackson worked as a computer programmer/analyst after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Business Administration from Pace University in New York.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association.



**Mercy Lokulutu**  
BSN, RN

**Mercy Lokulutu, BSN, RN**, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Texas at Arlington and anticipates graduating in May 2021. Growing up in Nigeria and immigrating to the United States for college, she earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of North Florida in 2004 and was the sole recipient of the Albert J. Ernest Caring Award and the Senior Service Award. As a member of Sigma Theta Tau, she was actively involved in outreach activities and various service projects on campus and in the North Florida region.

Her previous clinical experience includes working as a staff nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida, in telemetry, intensive care and psychiatric inpatient units with a diverse population. She launched a pilot nurse resource program to teach clinical skills and nursing theory to novice nurses aimed at improving clinical standards and evidence-based care. These initiatives helped her to gain experience in leadership and as a clinical instructor in Maryland.

Mrs. Lokulutu is passionate about reaching underserved populations and has led medical mission trips to Guatemala, Peru, Zimbabwe, local clinics in Florida and refugee communities in Fort Worth, Texas. Given her background, clinical expertise, and leadership experience, she plans to continue to serve culturally diverse populations upon graduation as a PMHNP.

---



**Ronald Pan**  
RN

**Ronald Pan, RN**, is a second year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner student at Azusa Pacific University. Mr. Pan began his career as a life insurance salesman but chose Nursing to have a more meaningful career. His goal is to deliver straightforward therapeutic care to his patients in the context of a complicated healthcare environment.

He aims upon graduation is to provide psychotherapeutic evidence-based care for the benefit of young adult patients.

---



**Andrea Ward**  
BSN, RN, TNCC

**Andrea Ward, BSN, RN, TNCC**, is a second-year Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver, Colorado, where she also received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and graduated Cum Laude.

Ms. Ward has experience in a variety of settings including inpatient (Telemetry, Neuro Step-down, PACU and Emergency Room), outpatient (Family medicine residency clinic as a Nursing Supervisor) and Informatics (training and support for both inpatient and outpatient EMR systems including EPIC).

Ms. Ward believes that providing greater access to patients seeking assistance with mental health and substance abuse issues is of the utmost importance given her professional experience in the emergency room and witnessing the effects of limited access to such care. It is her goal upon completion of the PMHNP program to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to individuals with substance abuse disorders.

Ms. Ward is a member of the Colorado Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association.

---



**Taylor Washington**  
BSN, RN

**Taylor Washington, BSN, RN**, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) slated to graduate in December 2021.

Ms. Washington's passion is to prevent, treat, and educate clients on improving their overall mental health with a focus on African Americans.

She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in April of 2016. Ms. Washington has always had a passion for caring for people and decided to return to school where she earned a baccalaureate degree in Nursing (BSN) from UAB in December 2018. Upon graduation from the PMHNP program she plans to provide care to individuals that are diagnosed with an addiction disorder.

Ms. Washington is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Alabama Nurses Association, the National Black Nurses Association, and treasurer for the Birmingham Black Nurses Association.



**Helena Addison**

MSN, RN

**Helena Addison, MSN, RN**, is a second-year PhD Student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Her overarching area of research interest is the pervasive impact of violence on mental health. She is particularly interested in studying substance use and mental health outcomes, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression, amongst Black men who have experienced interpersonal violence in Philadelphia and other urban communities. Ms. Addison is committed to be a researcher, advocate, and clinical practitioner that promotes health equity and social justice to improve the mental health outcomes of individuals who have experienced violence.

She has many years of community-based research experience in HIV prevention and sexual health promotion among disadvantaged youth and women experiencing intimate partner violence. Clinically, Ms. Addison has cared for people with dual diagnosis of mental illness and a substance use disorder, as well as individuals living with HIV. Through these experiences, she has found that violent and traumatic experiences as well as the negative mental and physical health impacts are all too common, especially among ethnic-minority populations.

Ms. Addison has been engaged in advocacy for issues related to violence, mental health, and substance use through organizations such as the National Black Nurses Association. She also works to provide nurses with education and resources about Trauma-Informed Care and practical tips for implementation in inpatient healthcare settings.



**April C. Ames-Chase**

MSN, RN-BC, CARN, CNL

**April C. Ames-Chase, MSN, RN-BC, CARN, CNL**, a community mental health advocate, nurse educator and standardized patient educator, is pursuing a PhD in Nursing with a focus on Population Health at Walden University. She credits her interest in healthcare from being a candy striper as a teenager in Baltimore, MD. at Provident Hospital. Shortly after earning her BSN degree from Coppin State College Helene Fuld School of Nursing, she was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps. She received extensive nursing experience and many awards during her active duty military service. She was awarded the Mental Health Nurse of the Year while stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, MD. Under Ms. Ames-Chase leadership, her team won the Best Health Promotion Program (HPP) in the Pacific while stationed in Japan. She was awarded the Tricare Star of the Year for her innovative cost savings health promotion programs. Ms. Ames-Chase deployed overseas twice to care for wounded warriors during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She 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" and presented the functional outcomes study at Military Research Conferences, a Clinical Nurse Leader Symposium, and at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) 32nd Annual Conference.

Ms. Ames-Chase is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), International Nurses Society on Addictions, Clinical Nurse Leader Association, Association of Standardized Patient Educators, American Red Cross, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Team Rubicon and Wounded Warrior Project. She is the CEO/Owner of Musiq to My Peers, LLC and has authored a book titled, "A Moment in Time."



**April C. Bradshaw**

MSN, RN, BGS

**April C. Bradshaw, MSN, RN, BGS**, is a second-year Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student at Frontier Nursing University (FNU). Her DNP clinical project focuses on reducing the suicide risk among ethnic and immigrant populations living in rural, Western Kansas through the implementation of the primary care behavioral health model led by Family Nurse Practitioners in a primary care practice setting. Upon graduation she will collaborate with local and state officials to implement policies that are culturally inclusive to ensure that disadvantaged groups receive adequate mental health care in rural Western Kansas.

Ms. Bradshaw has worked in psychiatric nursing for over 10 years with veterans, children, and adolescents. She is an alumna of the MFP/ANA masters' program.



**Marlene Brennan**

DNP, FNP-BC, APRN

**Marlene Brennan, DNP, FNP-BC, PMNP-BC, APRN** is pursuing a PhD at Florida Atlantic University, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing (FAU) where she is an Assistant Professor teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Her 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.

Dr. Brennan obtained her Associate Degree in nursing from 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, the Renfrew Center, and the Association of Black Nursing Faculty (ABNF) where she has presented both podium and poster presentations.



**Griselle B. Estrada**

MSN, RN

**Griselle B. Estrada, MSN, RN**, is a psychiatric-mental health nurse, and nurse educator. Currently, she is fully dedicated to completing her PhD in Nursing with a focus on Transcultural Nursing. She expects to graduate in 2021. Ms. Estrada aims to bring additional research focus on suicide prevention and mental health promotion in the U.S. Hispanic population.

She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Puerto Rico. She began her career as a medical-surgical nurse in Puerto Rico before moving to the U.S. 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 changed 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 recognized her love of teaching and transitioned into being a full-time nurse educator.

She is an active member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, serving on the Executive Board of her local chapter and on the Membership Committee at the national level. Ms. Estrada is passionate about mentoring, raising awareness about mental health issues, and serving the Hispanic community.



**Roxanne Jeffries-Baxter**

GNP-BC/FNP-BC, RN

**Roxanne Jeffries-Baxter, GNP-BC/FNP-BC, RN**, is currently enrolled at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's dual degree Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)/ Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program (PMHNP). She is interested in increasing the opiate recovery success rate among adolescence and young adults by implementing Buprenorphine treatment in addition to exploring the effects of trauma treatment on substance abuse recovery rates.

Ms. Jeffries-Baxter's career has included both medical and mental health clinical experiences across many settings including inpatient psychiatric, long term and home care as well as providing nursing care in a correction facility. Moreover, she has provided advanced practice care as a Nurse Practitioner in inpatient and outpatient psychiatric and substance abuse treatment facilities. In her current practice, she provides acute psychiatric care on a geropsych unit.

She is an active member of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) where she has contributed to unit and facility based educational activities. She also serves as a preceptor and mentor for new and novice nurses and Nurse Practitioners.





**Janelle Nicole Jones**

APRN, PMHNP-BC

**Janelle Nicole Jones, APRN, PMHNP-BC**, a board-certified Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, School of Nursing, in Minneapolis, MN. She is interested in increasing mental health literacy, decreasing health disparities, and reducing mental health and substance abuse stigma for African Americans. She is also passionate about addressing the psychosocial issues of African American oncology patients.

Ms. Jones obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University, where she was a Fuld Fellow Scholar. As a Fellow, she partnered with the Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality to help mitigate against barcode workarounds with medication and laboratory orders at the hospital. After leaving Hopkins, she received the National Institutes of Health: Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) Program Grant, relocated to Sweden and collaborated with the University of Gothenburg's Healthy Aging Initiative. Through this collaboration, she co-authored the review article, "Impact of Physical Activity on the Self-Perceived Quality of Life in Non-Frail Older Adults." Ms. Jones obtained her Master of Science in Nursing from Yale University, specializing in psychiatry and oncology. While at Yale, she received the American Cancer Society Graduate Grant which sparked her interest in psychosocial oncology. She also worked as a charge nurse at an inpatient psychiatric hospital with both adolescents and adults. She was recruited to Minnesota to work as a PMHNP in two federally qualified health center community outpatient clinics with underserved and underinsured communities.

Ms. Jones is a member of the Minnesota Black Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing, Delta Mu chapter; the Minnesota APRN Coalition, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, and the American Nurses Association.



**Brianna Michelle Singleton**

MPH, RN, PHH, AGPCNP-BC

**Brianna Michelle 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 with a specialty in Occupational and Environmental Health and nurse researcher, 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.





**Melissa Anne Smith**

MSN, RN-BC

**Melissa Anne Smith, MSN, RN-BC**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at the University of South Alabama in addition to a post-Masters' certificate as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). Her research 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 obtained an Associate Degree in Nursing 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 (BSN) and Masters' of Science in Nursing Education from Thomas Edison State University. She is passionate about mentoring, increasing competence of care for minorities with mental illness and eradicating stigma. She looks forward to implementing change in the treatment of persons with mental illness.

Ms. Smith is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, and the Eastern Nursing Research Society.



**Marie A. Smith-East**

PMHNP-BC, RN, MSN, MS, EMT-B

**Marie A. Smith-East, PMHNP-BC, RN, MSN, MS, EMT-B**, is a PhD nursing student at the University of Central Florida. Her research interests include factors that contribute to access to care, particularly in minority populations with schizophrenia spectrum disorders. She is board-certified as a Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and has worked in the community mental health setting over the past several years. She has been a nursing clinical instructor and facilitator and has contributed to curriculum and policy development.

Ms. Smith enjoys volunteering with the "On-Call Team" of the Schizophrenia and Related Alliance Disorders of America and is the recipient of their 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of her 4-years volunteer work assisting individuals and their families from all over the world. She also serves on the Addictions Council of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



**A. Udaya Thomas**

MSN, RN, MPH, APRN, CYT

**A. Udaya Thomas, MSN, RN, MPH, APRN, CYT** is a PhD student at Walden University in the Nursing Interdisciplinary Health track. Her area of doctoral research is in Behavioral Health Integration into Primary Care for uninsured and underinsured community members. Ms. Thomas is also working as a Primary Care Provider at Memorial Primary Care with safety-net patients in Hollywood, Florida. She holds certificates in integrative health coaching, yoga, and as a Jhpiego Master Trainer. Ms. Thomas is a Johns Hopkins University Master's prepared and Board-Certified Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Public Health Specialist. She works with individuals and groups, using preventative health, meditation, nutrition, and movement solutions to co-create plans with community members to improve self and family care to maintain optimal community health.

Ms. Thomas has been active in the Integrative Medicine for the Underserved (IM4US) since 2015 and has been co-chair of the Policy committee since 2018, until transitioning in her role as President for IM4US in January 2020.



VISIT  
[APPLY.EMFP.ORG](https://apply.emfp.org)

ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS  
UNTIL  
**April 30, 2021**

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SAMHSA MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT ANA

The **SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program** at the American Nurses Association provides opportunities for minority psychiatric nurses to attain masters and doctoral degrees in mental health and substance use disorders to provide direct care, research, education, and health advocacy to minority and underserved populations across the life span.

## FELLOWSHIPS

### DOCTORAL

Full-time behavioral health nurses pursuing a doctoral degree in Psychiatric Mental Health or Substance Abuse.

### MASTERS

Students admitted to or currently matriculating in a full-time accredited master's degree program in behavioral health (psychiatric nursing) or substance abuse disorders prevention and treatment.

FUNDING FOR THIS NOTICE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY GRANT NUMBER 1H79SM080386-02 FROM THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION(SAMHSA) .





#### **SAMHSA MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**American Nurses Association**

**8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492**

**EMAIL: [mfp@ana.org](mailto:mfp@ana.org)**

**WEB: [www.emfp.org](http://www.emfp.org)**

**FB: [www.facebook.com/samhsamfp](https://www.facebook.com/samhsamfp)**

**Twitter: [www.twitter.com/anamfp](https://www.twitter.com/anamfp)**

**Instagram: [www.instagram.com/samhsamfp](https://www.instagram.com/samhsamfp)**

Funding for this announcement brochure was made possible (in part) by Grant Number 5H79SM080386-03 from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written training materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.