



National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

# Women's Health Awareness 2026

Transforming Communities by  
Enhancing Women's Health

Saturday, April 11, 2026



## Distinguished WHA Faculty Biographies

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Kareemah Abdusamad**

*Certified Master Gardener*

Kareemah Abdusamad's gardening experience spans many years in varied climates from Senegal, West Africa, to more recently Stoneham, Massachusetts, and Nashua, New Hampshire. In Senegal, she successfully taught villagers to garden on small government-provided plots to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables in their diets. She has also shared her skills with E.K. Powe Elementary and Eastway Elementary school students. She has worked at SEEDS, a local nonprofit organization that educates urban youths about all aspects of gardening, and consults with families and individuals interested in starting gardens. Certified as a Master Gardener by the Durham County Department of Agriculture Extension Service, she continues to garden with a focus on medicinal herbs and vegetables.



**Ingrid Barton**

*Bridges Point Inc. Sickle Cell Agency*

Ingrid Barton is originally from Martinsville, Virginia, and is a technology professional, advocate, and community leader who is passionate about advancing health awareness and equity. She currently serves as a third-party risk business analyst at IBM, where she focuses on risk management, data analysis, and strengthening third-party governance processes. Barton began working in this space in 2021 at Red Hat and transitioned to IBM on January 1, 2026, continuing in the same role following IBM's acquisition of Red Hat's business unit. Beyond her professional career, Barton is deeply committed to community engagement and advocacy. While at Red Hat, she served as program lead for the BUILD (Blacks United in Leadership and Diversity) Employee Resource Group, supporting Black employees and allies through initiatives focused on community outreach, social connection, and professional development. Barton is also an individual living with sickle cell disease (SCD) and uses her voice and experiences to advocate for greater awareness, education, and support for those affected by the condition — particularly women navigating the unique health challenges associated with SCD. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and is currently active with the Johnston County Alumnae Chapter. She serves as the board chair of Bridges Pointe Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by SCD. Through her professional work, advocacy, and leadership, Barton remains committed to empowering communities through education, awareness, and access to resources..

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Leah Bressler, M.D., M.P.H.**

*Dual Board-Certified Obstetrician-Gynecologist and Reproductive Endocrinologist and Infertility Specialist, Shady Grove Fertility Carolinas*

Leah Bressler, M.D., M.P.H., is a dual board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN) and reproductive endocrinologist and infertility (REI) specialist who co-founded the academic private practice of Shady Grove Fertility (SGF) Carolinas.

Bressler's research focuses on uterine factor and unexplained infertility, including endometriosis, lifestyle factors, and equitable care. She conducted studies assessing the impact of alcohol consumption and weight on fertility, and led clinical trials evaluating a novel oral medication for endometriosis and another to reduce blood loss at myomectomy. She published a foundational study explaining the mechanism through which a commonly used medication thins the uterine lining in certain women with infertility.

Bressler is the research coordinator for SGF Carolinas and mentors SGF's REI fellows. She continues lecturing University of North Carolina OB-GYN residents on REI topics, and her clinic, SGF Carolinas, serves as the REI rotation site for East Carolina University's OB-GYN residents.

She grew up in Clinton, N.C., and is a proud graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). Bressler then earned her M.D. and M.P.H. from Harvard Medical School and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She completed OB-GYN residency at Northwestern University where she served as chief resident of education. Bressler completed her subspecialty training in REI at UNC, after which she stayed on faculty and served as the medical director of IVF, director of third-party reproduction, associate REI fellowship program director, and OB-GYN residency rotation director prior to leaving to found SGF Carolinas.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Cheryl Brewer, Ph.D., RN, MSN**

*Senior Nurse Scientist and Researcher, International Association of Sickle Cell Nurses and Professional Associates*

Cheryl Brewer, Ph.D., RN, MSN, is a senior nurse scientist and researcher with the International Association of Sickle Cell Nurses and Professional Associates, and the former associate vice president of nursing for more than 120 clinics at Duke Health Integrated Practice. She is also a faculty consulting associate at the Duke University School of Nursing. In addition to presenting lectures related to leadership in nursing and transition to RN practice, her sickle cell disease (SCD) research interests include health-related quality of life and decreasing stigma in individuals with SCD. She advocates for self-care management strategies for individuals living with SCD, particularly within marginalized and underserved communities.

Brewer is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Central Carolina Black Nurses Council, N.C. Nurses Association, American Organization for Nursing Leadership, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She serves on several community boards, including the Poe Center for Health Education, Durham County Firearm Injury Prevention Partnership, and Senior PharmAssist where she is the current board president. Brewer has coauthored several publications, and she is the recipient of numerous awards, including Distinguished Nursing Alumna at Duke University, Distinguished Nursing Alumna at North Carolina Central University, and Outstanding Nursing Alumna Service Award at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). She has also received the award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership–Duke Friends of Nursing, Great 100 Nurses of NC, Chi Eta Phi Nurse Legend Award, and the Triangle Business Journal Healthcare Hero Award.

Brewer received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from North Carolina Central University, Master of Science in nursing administration and Leadership from Duke University, and a Ph.D. in nursing from UNC.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Cheryl Carroll, DNP, CNM, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC, CST**

*Certified Nurse Midwife; Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist; StrongTower Counseling and Education, Practice Owner*

Cheryl Carroll, DNP, CNM, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC, CST, is an expert in women's health with more than 30 years of experience. While working as a certified nurse midwife and a Lamaze Childbirth Educator, she saw the need to better serve the women and families she cared for by furthering her education, becoming a board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist.

This intersection of midwifery and mental health generated her specialty interest in sexual health. She is an AASECT certified sex therapist. Currently, she provides counseling and therapy to adult individuals, couples, and families through her private practice, StrongTower Counseling and Education, utilizing a holistic approach honoring the interconnectedness of the body, mind, and spirit. She provides educational sessions for small and large groups related to women's health, mental health, and sexual health. Carroll also works as a clinical abstractor summarizing maternal deaths and associated social determinants, and is an adjunct clinical instructor and clinical preceptor at the Duke University School of Nursing.



**Amber Cobia, PT, DPT, CLT**

*Women's Health Physical Therapist, UNC Health*

Amber Cobia, PT, DPT, CLT, is a board-certified clinical specialist in women's health physical therapy with 13 years of clinical experience. She has specialized in pelvic health since 2017 and is also a certified lymphedema therapist. Cobia is passionate about treating adults of all genders with a wide range of pelvic health conditions, with a particular clinical focus on helping women experiencing pain with sex. She is dedicated to mentoring newer therapists, residents, and students, and enjoys supporting the growth of others in the field. Outside of work, she spends her time with her family — her husband, three children, and three dogs — prioritizing self-care with friends and getting lost in a good book.



**Olivia French**

*Founder and Lead Instructor, Liv Fit Groove LLC*

Olivia French is the founder and lead instructor of Liv Fit Groove, a vibrant cardio dance fitness experience designed to help individuals rediscover joy through movement. She is a licensed Zumba instructor and will be certified to teach the Zumba Gold format, expanding her ability to serve active aging adults and participants with low mobility. She is scheduled to complete her NASM/AFAA Group Fitness Instructor certification in March 2026.

A proud alumna of North Carolina Central University, French is deeply committed to community empowerment and educational access. She serves as an application specialist at PKH, a nonprofit organization supporting adult learners in accelerated degree completion programs, where she guides prospective students through the admissions process.

Across both fitness and education, French's work centers on access, empowerment, and transformation — helping individuals move forward confidently in body and life.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Marvis Henderson Daye, Ed.D.**

*CEO, M.E. Henderson Inc.*

Marvis Henderson Daye, Ed.D., is your chief fun officer and CEO of M.E. Henderson Inc., and host of the Golden Hot Girls After Hour Podcast. Her company has four guiding principles: nourishing the body through movement, the soul through writing, the mind through reading, and being a voice for the voiceless. As a person with several chronic illnesses, she refused to let them stop her from having fun. So, she uses line dancing as the core of her business for low-impact exercise and to have fun! As an author, she published a novel, a nonfiction book, and a children's series. She is also the founder and vice-chairperson of Lift Every Voice Institute, a 501(c)(3) organization that offers social and academic enrichment activities for students and their families. Because of her leadership, she serves her Golden Hot Girls, the Sandwich Generation, and the Little Shoes. When she is not line dancing, she reads, attends concerts, and travels.



**Kennedy Holt, MSPH**

*Environmental Toxicologist, Public Health, Occupational, and Environmental Epidemiology, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services*

Kennedy Holt, MSPH, is as an environmental toxicologist for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) responsible for responding to chemical incidents, determining potential health impacts related to exposures to contaminants, and communicating those health risks to communities across the state. During his career with DHHS, Holt has provided public health guidance to multiple communities impacted by environmental contamination, which include those impacted by coal ash, PFAS, and other contaminants. During the responses to these events, Holt worked extensively to communicate the health risks, not only to local health departments and other stakeholders, but to have conversations and work directly with community members to address their concerns. Furthermore, Holt routinely works with private well owners to help them better understand how contaminants in their wells may impact well owners and their families, but also provide recommendations on mitigation and treatment techniques to address those concerns. To this end, Holt has led the efforts to develop North Carolina's first publicly available electronic tool for providing public health guidance for private well water analyses via the "Be Well Informed" platform and North Carolina's Private Well Water Storymap, which expands access to North Carolina private well data.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Valerie Benedicta Idada-Parker, DNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP, LCAS**

*Founder and President, Reliable Health Services Inc.*

Valerie Benedicta Idada-Parker, DNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP, LCAS, is a Doctor of Nursing Practice–prepared psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner with nearly 30 years of clinical experience in primary care, behavioral health, and addiction treatment. She is the founder and president of Reliable Health Services Inc. in Durham, North Carolina, where she leads an integrated practice focused on treating the whole person — mind, body, and spirit.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Idada-Parker specializes in trauma-informed care, women's mental health, and the connection between emotional trauma and chronic medical conditions, including cardiovascular disease. As a licensed clinical addictions specialist, she also works extensively with individuals experiencing substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions.

Idada-Parker is passionate about educating communities and health care professionals on how trauma and stress affect women's mental and physical health. Her work emphasizes holistic, culturally responsive care that empowers individuals to heal, prevent disease, and improve overall well-being.



**Crystal Lee Pow Jackson, Ph.D.**

*Research Scientist, North Carolina Central University*

Crystal Lee Pow Jackson, Ph.D., is an environmental toxicologist and public health scientist whose work sits at the intersection of environmental quality, community health, and protective action. With a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology and nearly a decade translating complex science about waterborne contaminants and their health effects into practical guidance communities can act on, Lee Pow Jackson works with communities to find answers to questions about their environments, their health, and actions they can take to protect both.



**Jennifer Link, MSW**

*Aging Program Coordinator, Central Pines Regional Council Area Agency on Aging*

Jennifer Link, MSW, is an aging program coordinator for the Central Pines Area Agency on Aging. Her focus is the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Her passion for creating a better world for older people comes from being lucky to have close relationships with her grandparents, especially her Mimi, for whom she was family caregiver. Link began her career in aging services by working in a local adult day program, then moving to positions in long-term care and community aging services. Prior to her role as the NFCSP coordinator, Link was a long-term care ombudsman for 16 years with Central Pines Regional Council. She is enjoying the return to her true love, family caregivers, and improving services that support them. The timing is perfect, as she is currently a family caregiver to her parents.

She received her B.S. from North Carolina State University (Go Pack!) and her MSW from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is an N.C. native who lives in the Triangle with her partner. They have recently begun fostering dachshunds for a local dachshund rescue and are spoiling their fosters in memory of their late, beloved pooches, Comedy and Otto.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Susan K. Murphy, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Chief, Division of Reproductive Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine*

Susan K. Murphy, Ph.D., is a tenured associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chief of the Division of Reproductive Sciences at Duke University. She has nearly three decades of experience in epigenetics research, with a focus on the developmental origins of health and disease. Murphy earned her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from Wake Forest University and completed postdoctoral training at Duke University in the laboratory of Randy Jirtle, Ph.D., where she identified several novel imprinted genes in humans. She joined Duke's OB-GYN Division of Gynecologic Oncology faculty in 2003, where she expanded the ovarian cancer research program and co-led an international study on cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Her ovarian cancer research centers on identifying mechanisms that enable cancer cells to survive chemotherapy and drive recurrence. In 2005, she cofounded the Duke Newborn Epigenetics Study (NEST), a longitudinal pregnancy cohort that has followed children from gestation through their teens. She also served as program director for the NICHEs Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center at Duke and led CIPHERS, a multidisciplinary project examining the effects of cannabis use on the sperm epigenome and the potential heritability of these outcomes.



**Neesha Namasingh, M.D.**

*Fellow, Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Duke University School of Medicine*

Neesha Namasingh, M.D., is an endocrinology fellow at the Duke University School of Medicine. She completed her undergraduate studies and medical school at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, before training in internal medicine at Duke University. Her clinical interests include lipid disorders, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular risk reduction. In addition to her clinical training, Namasingh is pursuing a Master of Health Sciences in clinical research and conducts research focused on how environmental exposures may influence metabolic health in women. Her work explores how endocrine-disrupting chemicals may affect conditions such as gestational diabetes and long-term cardiometabolic disease. Namasingh is passionate about helping patients better understand their health and empowering people to make informed decisions about prevention and treatment.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Chelsea Ngongang, M.D., FAAC**

*Noninvasive Cardiologist, WakeMed Health and Hospitals*

Chelsea Ngongang, M.D., FAAC, is a cardiologist at WakeMed Heart and Vascular with clinical interests in adult cardiovascular medicine and disease prevention, women's health, and heart disease in pregnancy. She received her internal medicine residency training at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. Her roots are in North Carolina, where she was born and raised in Charlotte before attending North Carolina State University where she received her baccalaureate degree with honors in chemistry, and she earned her medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. She was recently recognized by Business North Carolina magazine as one of North Carolina's Top Doctors for the sixth year in a row, recognizing those who excel in their field of medicine. She is also a Triangle Business Journal 40 Under 40 award recipient.

Ngongang provides compassionate cardiovascular care focused on the uniqueness and dignity of each patient she serves. She invests time to build a rapport with patients and works to help them set goals to live their healthiest, fullest lives. Her favorite quote is, "It's much more important to know the sort of patient that has a disease than what sort of disease the patient has." – Sir William Osler

In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband, Eric, and son, Kingsley.



**Deborah Holt Noel, M.A.**

*Senior Producer, Black Issues Forum; Host and Feature Producer, North Carolina Weekend, PBS North Carolina*

Deborah Holt Noel, M.A., is the executive producer of "Black Issues Forum," one of PBS North Carolina's longest-running programs dedicated to African American life and affairs, and the host of "North Carolina Weekend," the network's highest-rated travel series.

In front of the camera, Noel is a natural talent who leads with authenticity. Determined to be prepared for any conversation, she has expanded her subject matter knowledge about the Black community in topics from health, education, politics, economics, racial justice, history, and culture. Her focus has been to develop compelling and informative content and create a space to see and hear Black perspectives and community voices. She is also an adept moderator across disciplines, having managed panel conversations on subjects ranging from Black life and experience to the role of women in war, new technologies, HBCUs, and more.

Behind the scenes, her power comes through in her writing and research, sense of timing and rhythm, and eye for what works aesthetically. A graduate of Saint Augustine's University and the University of Maryland, where she earned a CINE Eagle award for her documentary on her family's pioneering fight to integrate Raleigh's public schools, Noel brings both intellectual rigor and personal purpose to every project. A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., her guiding principle is to gain an appreciation for all people by coming to know their stories.

This is her second time moderating at the Women's Health Awareness Conference.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Ogugua Ndili Obi, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.**

*Director, East Carolina University (ECU) Sarcoidosis Center; Director, Medical Intensive Care Unit, ECU Health Medical Center; Associate Professor, ECU*

Ogugua Ndili Obi, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., is a pulmonary and critical care physician, and an assistant professor. She received her medical degree from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1998, and her Master of Public Health and Master of Science in epidemiology from the Harvard University School of Public Health in 2002 and 2004. Since joining the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine in 2013, Obi has distinguished herself in her academic pursuits, resident and fellow teaching, and in service to BSOM and VMC. Obi was recently awarded the 2021 Department of Internal Medicine teaching recognition Award for Excellence in Teaching and Medical Education.

As clinical director of the sarcoidosis program, Obi worked extensively to establish the ECU Sarcoidosis Clinic as a WASOG-recognized Sarcoidosis Center of Excellence. She also established the ECU Sarcoidosis Registry to better understand and characterize the disease in Eastern North Carolina.

Obi loves to travel with her family. They enjoy being in new places and seeing new things. She is married to Reginald Obi, M.D., and they have three wonderful sons: Nnamdi, Ozioma, and Chigozie.



**Marci Oliver, MBA, CEC, CEPC, CCE**

*Catering Chef and Instructor, Aramark Collegiate Hospitality*

Marci Oliver is a certified executive chef, certified executive party chef, and certified culinary educator, all through the American Culinary Federation. She has an MBA with a focus in hospitality and tourism.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Kendra Modell Parrish, DO, FACS**

*Breast Surgical Oncologist, Duke University*

Kendra Modell Parrish, DO, FACS, is a breast surgical oncologist and medical instructor in the Division of Surgical Oncology at Duke University. She completed her medical degree at Kansas City University and general surgery residency training at Hospital of Saint Raphael's at Yale University. After 10 years of general surgery practice in rural Maine and North Carolina, she pursued a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Duke, after which she joined Duke's faculty.



**Benita Perkins, MBA**

*Director, Benniegirl Healthy Lifestyle Branding and Communication Inc.; Certified Fitness and Personal Training Instructor, Athletic and Fitness Association of America*

Benita Perkins, MBA, is a health and wellness branding expert dedicated to advancing culturally relevant wellness solutions for women. For more than 20 years, she has helped organizations connect their missions to healthy lifestyle practices through engaging, fun, and interactive community-based events that inspire sustainable change.

She is the founder of Bennie Girl Healthy Lifestyle Branding and Communication, and the creator of its signature program, Healthy Heritage Lifestyle Sisters' Day of Wellness, which provides trusted health education and wellness experiences for women of color to help reduce health disparities in their communities. Perkins' work blends movement, education, and empowerment — meeting women where they are and supporting lifelong well-being. Her journey began with the production of "Taking It to a Higher Ground," a fitness video set to gospel dance music that celebrates joy, movement, and cultural connection.

Perkins has delivered digital wellness programming, events, and lifestyle education for a wide range of organizations, including AARP, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, Black Enterprise Magazine, CVS Caremark, Johnson & Johnson, the National Urban League, New York Life, Pepsi, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Durham County Public Health, among others.

A certified fitness professional through the Athletics and Fitness Association of America and the National Academy of Sports Medicine, Perkins is also an accomplished instructor and wellness educator. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and the Stern School of Business at New York University, and continues to lead community outreach through exercise programming, blogs, webinars, and wellness events.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Rhonda B. Powell**

*Victim Advocate, Raleigh Police Department*

Rhonda Powell is Raleigh Police Department's only victim advocate, where she specializes in providing assistance to victims of domestic/family violence, violent crimes, sexual assaults, families of homicide survivors, and some human trafficking cases. She serves as the liaison between local police departments, the district attorney's office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and other outside community and service providers within Wake County.

Powell completed her bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in communications from Appalachian State University. She then began her career with the Raleigh Police Department in July of 1995 as a sworn police officer. Since 2002, Powell has continued to serve in her current role as victim advocate, where she continues to support all victims of crimes and assists them with the proper resources they need to restore their lives back to a sense of normalcy. Powell has been with the police department for 31 years and plans to retire April 1, 2026.

Powell is very passionate when working with victims, and models her daily work by a quote by Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Powell wants to ensure all victims know and value their self-worth and assure them they can thrive in their newfound journey of life.

Powell was recognized during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April of 2024 for her outstanding service and commitment to crime victims. She was nominated by her peers and received the Distinguished Victim Services Award for Victim Advocates in North Carolina by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

On January 18, 2026, she was awarded the Making a Difference Award by the Women's Club of Raleigh for her hard work and dedication she provides to victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults.



**Mariah Prince-Allen, DNP, FNP-BC**

*Women's Leadership and Retention Strategist; Founder, Telehealth for Her*

Mariah Prince-Allen, DNP, FNP-BC, is a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and pursued her advanced education at the Duke University School of Nursing, where she earned both her master's and doctorate degrees. Driven by an unwavering passion for enhancing women's health and empowerment, she founded Telehealth for HER, a women's wellness clinic that redefines women's health care, specializing in hormone optimization, metabolic and gut health, and sexual wellness. Our guiding principles at HER: to heal, empower, and restore. Apart from her clinical practice, she holds the role of a clinical associate at the Duke School of Nursing and is acknowledged as a published author in peer-reviewed nursing journals.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Ingrid Saddler-Walker, M.A., E-RYT 500/RCYT 95**

*Founder and CEO, Wytha Balance Yoga–Counseling LLC*

Ingrid Saddler-Walker, owner of Wytha Balance Yoga–Counseling LLC, and executive director/founder Bull City Yoga Festival, which she created with the intention to bring together the diverse yoga teachers in Durham, North Carolina, and the surrounding area. “My goal is to develop healthy life skills with yoga, educate and empower others with health, wellness and the benefits of yoga.”

Saddler-Walker discovered yoga at her local gym in 2009. As an elementary professional school counselor, she was inspired to pursue her own yoga teacher training as a tool to share with students navigating mental health diagnosis. Bringing yoga into the classroom would ultimately support the social emotional learning and self-regulation for all children impacted by this practice.

She completed her yoga teacher training with Radiant Child Family Yoga-Kundalini Yoga, Mind Body Centering-Advanced Yoga for Mental Health, Yoga Skills-Kemetic Yoga and Lifeologic-Psychotherapeutic Yoga, and Yoga for Breast Cancer Survivors. She is also a master level reiki practitioner and has several certifications in teaching yoga to children. In 2009, she opened Wytha Balance Yoga–Counseling LLC, the only Black yoga studio in Durham, and founded the Bull City Yoga Festival in 2018. On June 9, 2024, she opened the Bull City Yoga Festival Studio in Durham.



**Tia Salvi-Jackson, M.D., M.S.**

*Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology, Duke Cancer Center*

Tia Salvi-Jackson, M.D., M.S., is an assistant professor of radiation oncology at the Duke Cancer Center in Durham, North Carolina, where she specializes in the treatment of breast cancer. Her clinical work focuses on delivering modern, patient-centered radiation therapy that maximizes cancer control while minimizing treatment side effects and treatment burden for patients.

Salvi-Jackson is passionate about improving the experience of women undergoing cancer treatment. Her research has focused on strategies to prevent and manage treatment-related complications from radiation therapy and on understanding how social determinants of health influence cancer care and treatment adherence. Through this work, she aims to improve both outcomes and quality of life for patients facing breast cancer.

In addition to her clinical and research work, Salvi-Jackson is deeply committed to education and mentorship. Prior to entering medicine, she worked as a chemistry professor and continues to bring a strong passion for teaching to her work with trainees, patients, and the broader community.

Through her clinical practice, research, and educational efforts, Salvi-Jackson is dedicated to advancing compassionate, patient-centered cancer care while helping patients better understand modern cancer treatments.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Tara Owens Shuler, M.Ed., LCCE, CD(DONA)**

*Branch Head Maternal Health Branch - Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health*

Tara Owens Shuler, M.Ed., LCCE, CD(DONA), has 30 years of public health work experience, ranging from maternal and child health programming to health professions workforce development programs. Shuler currently is the Maternal Health Branch head in the Women, Infant, and Children Wellness Section in the N.C. Division of Public Health. As the Maternal Health Branch head, she works with a team of program managers who provide support and technical assistance to statewide maternal health programming. The Maternal Health Branch implements three federally funded grants to address maternal mortality and maternal morbidity, maternal mental health and substance use disorders, and maternal health innovation projects. She is also a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE), a DONA-certified birth doula, and co-directs the North Carolina Perinatal Association Lamaze Childbirth Educator Program. Shuler received an undergraduate degree in health education and health behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1992, and a master's in community health from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1997.



**Nicole L. Snyder, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A.S.**

*North Carolina Wastewater Monitoring Network, Division of Public Health, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services*

Nicole L. Snyder, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A.S., obtained her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Connecticut and later pursued an M.P.H. in applied epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with an M.A.S. in spatial analysis for public health from Johns Hopkins University. She has worked as a public health epidemiologist with the North Carolina Wastewater Monitoring Network since January 2023.



**Marie Stewart, LCSW**

*Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator/Women's Health BHIP Team, Durham VA Health Care System, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Stephen Tilley, M.D.**

*Associate Professor, Medicine, Department of Medicine, UNC School of Medicine*

Stephen Tilley, M.D., is an associate professor of medicine at the UNC School of Medicine. He has a long-standing interest in inflammatory lung diseases, including asthma and sarcoidosis. He has partnered with the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research to facilitate a local sarcoidosis support group, and worked with colleagues at East Carolina University and Duke University to study what causes sarcoidosis, improve diagnostic tests, and evaluate new therapies.



**Kathy Trotter, DNP, CNM, FNP**

*Associate Professor, Duke University School of Nursing, Duke Breast Surgical Oncology*

Kathy Trotter, DNP, CNM, FNP, is an associate clinical professor and the lead faculty for the women's health nurse practitioner major at the Duke University School of Nursing. She is a women's health clinician who has specialized in breast issues, breast cancer risk assessment, and survivorship care after two decades of primary care and midwifery care of women and families. She adapted a shared medical appointment model to develop an innovative and the first-ever dedicated breast cancer survivor clinic at Duke. She presented this at the

San Antonio Breast Cancer Conference, as well as international and national oncology nursing meetings. She also offered this group model successfully for our high-risk breast cancer population with the goal of empowering women in their health care journey.

She received a BSN from George Mason University and earned the MSN with a specialty in midwifery at the University of Kentucky in 1988. In 1998, she completed a post-master's certificate in the family nurse practitioner specialty at the Duke University School of Nursing. She earned her DNP from the Duke University School of Nursing in 2012. Before joining the faculty of the Duke University School of Nursing, she held faculty positions with physician resident education in the Department of Family Medicine within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and was a full-time primary care provider.

When teaching, she is intentional about structuring methods of support and connection for nurses in graduate education programs and has evaluated the APN student perception of their experience within their university.

## Distinguished WHA Faculty



**Antonia Vincent, LCSW**

*Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator, CEP COMPACT ACT Coordinator, Durham VA Health Care System*

Toni Vincent, LCSW, is the community engagement and partnership coordinator (CEPC) from the Durham VA Health Care System. She is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her master's in social work from the University of Georgia. She comes to this role after many years of direct mental health counseling experience. During her career, she has had the opportunity to work with active duty military service members and their families at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. She worked with terminally ill homeless veterans at the Salisbury VAMC, and provided individual and group counseling to veterans at the Danville, Virginia, CBOC. She has been working as a CEPC since September 2023.



**Stacy Wentworth, M.D.**

*Clinical Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology, Duke University School of Medicine*

Stacy Wentworth, M.D., is a clinical associate professor of radiation oncology at the Duke University School of Medicine. She has 20 years of experience in caring for patients with cancer. She created the first multidisciplinary survivorship clinic at the Wake Forest University Comprehensive Cancer Center, which opened in 2019 and is still thriving. Her research has been featured at national meetings and in peer-reviewed publications. Wentworth has appeared on national and international media outlets. She is also a two-time Webby Award nominated podcast, producer, and founder of the Cancer Culture Substack, a weekly newsletter that explores the history, science, and emotions around cancer.



**Kelli Wood, M.S., RD, LDN**

*Regional Registered Dietitian, Aramark Collegiate Hospitality*

Kelli Wood, M.S., RD, LDN, is the regional registered dietitian for Aramark Collegiate Hospitality, supporting D.C., Virginia, and North Carolina universities. She received her undergraduate degree at North Carolina State University and her Master of Science in nutrition sciences at Meredith College.