

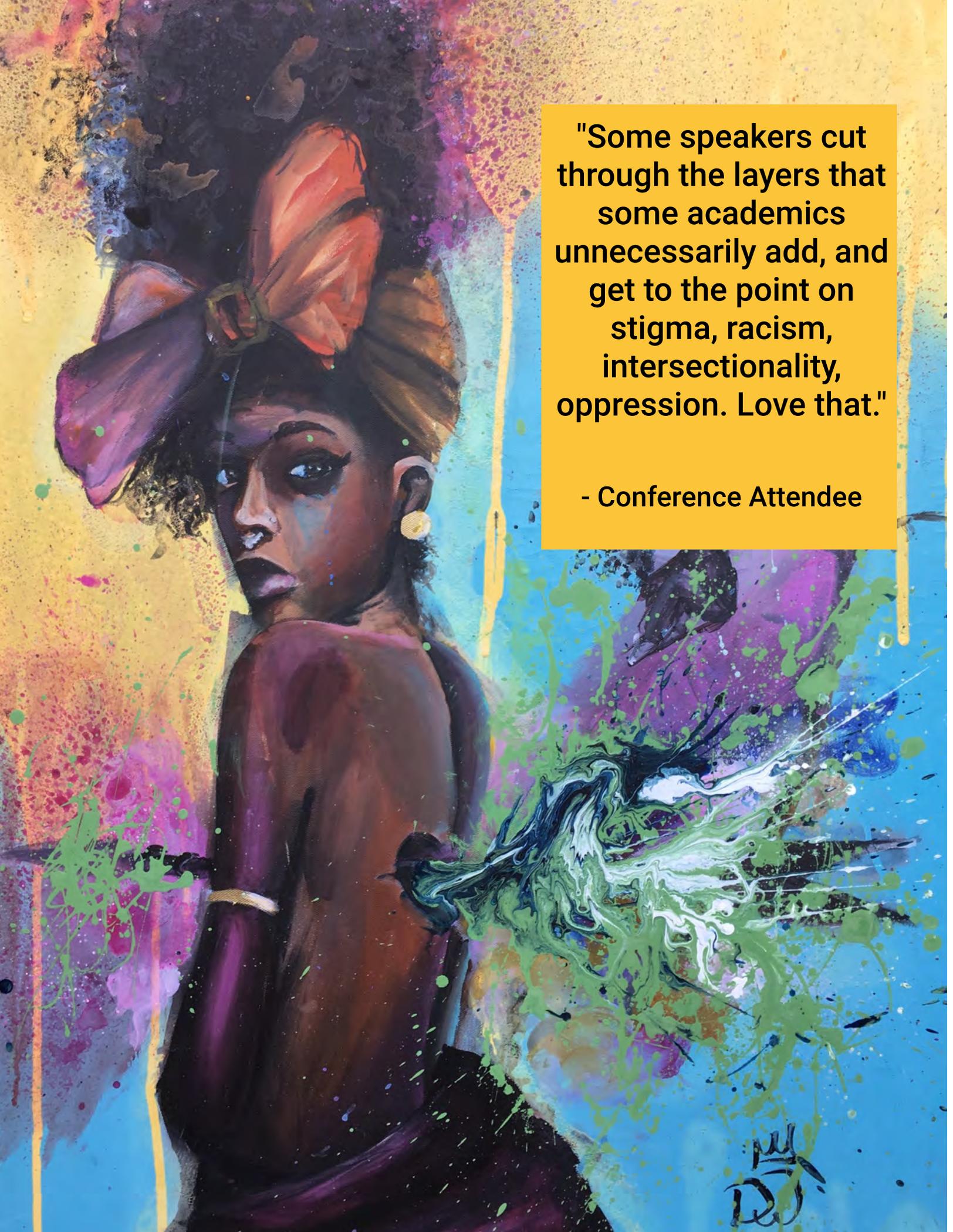
BRIDGING RESEARCH, COMMUNITY AND PRACTICE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STIGMA

2018 Conference Summary Report







"Some speakers cut through the layers that some academics unnecessarily add, and get to the point on stigma, racism, intersectionality, oppression. Love that."

- Conference Attendee

*my
Dad*

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The 9th annual International Conference on Stigma was successfully held at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium on November 16th, 2018 from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

- Six CEU social work hours were offered.
- 3 raffles were held throughout the day
- Vendors included: AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Promising Futures, NOBCO, Khafre Abif, Nova Salud, MMG, Howard Pediatrics, Shivonne A. Odum and Crystal Joseph, Positive Women's Network/Project ARK, Lutheran Social Services, Hillcrest Children and family Center, HU School of Social Work, and Howard university Hospital Routine HIV Screening Program
- A live webcast was streamed on the Stigma Conference website: whocanyoutell.org

Conference learning objectives were:

1. Describe the impact of stigma on the wellbeing of affected individuals and health outcomes for HIV.
2. Discuss innovative research methods and tools to monitor and measure stigma, and improve outcomes.
3. Improve capacities for affected individuals and junior minority researchers to engage in collaborative projects with senior researchers and community stakeholders.
4. Continue and expand working groups to mentor minority faculty, and link HIV positive individuals with researchers for collaboration.

EVENT OUTLINE

Keynote

Warning: Stigma is a Danger to Your Health

Speaker: Michael Weinstein, President and Co-founder, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Los Angeles, California



Morning Session

Community-Based Stigma Research: Is Participation Reality, Rhetoric or Tokenism?

Moderator: Ezer Kang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Howard University

Panelists:

Anna Helova, MA, MBA, MPH, Program Director, University of Alabama at Birmingham Sparkman Center for Global Health

David Malebranche, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Morehouse School of Medicine, East Point, GA

Andrew Spieldenner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication, California State University San Marcos

Kneeshe Parkinson, Positive Women's Network/Project ARK, Consumer Liaison/Activist, St. Louis, MO.

Cheriko (Riko) A. Boone, MSW, MPH, Co-Chair of the BELIEVE Martin Delaney Cure CAB, Washington, DC



Research Updates



Race-based stereotypes, stigma, and sexual decision, making among young heterosexual African American women

Keosha Bond, EdD, MPH, CHES, Assistant Professor of Health Behavior and Community Health, Department of Public Health, New York Medical College

Afternoon Session

Act Against Stigma

Moderator: Phill Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Black AIDS Institute, Los Angeles, CA

Panelists:

Roscoe Boyd II, Founding Steering Committee Member Undetectable = Untransmittable, Prevention Access Campaign (Stigma of HIV)

Victor Reyes, Senior Youth Advocate, Association to Benefit Children, New York, NY (Stigma of Perinatal HIV)

Kamilah O. Martin-Proctor, M.A., Chair, DC Commission on Person with Disabilities, Washington, DC (Stigma of Disabilities)

Cudore L. Snell, DSW, LICSW, Assistant Provost for International Programs and Professor, School of Social Work, Howard University, Washington, DC (Stigma of Mental Illness)

Arpita Appannagari, National Community Outreach Coordinator, The Center for HIV Law and Policy, New York, NY (Stigma of Hepatitis C/Drug Use)



Short Film, "90 Days"

Film Panel:

Marnina Miller, Positive Women's Network

Anna E. Fowlkes, Advocate and Activist

ATTENDANCE AND PROCEEDS

279 in-person attendees

191 webcast attendees

Live stream:

Attendees viewed the conference from the United States, Russia, the UK, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Netherlands, India, Pakistan

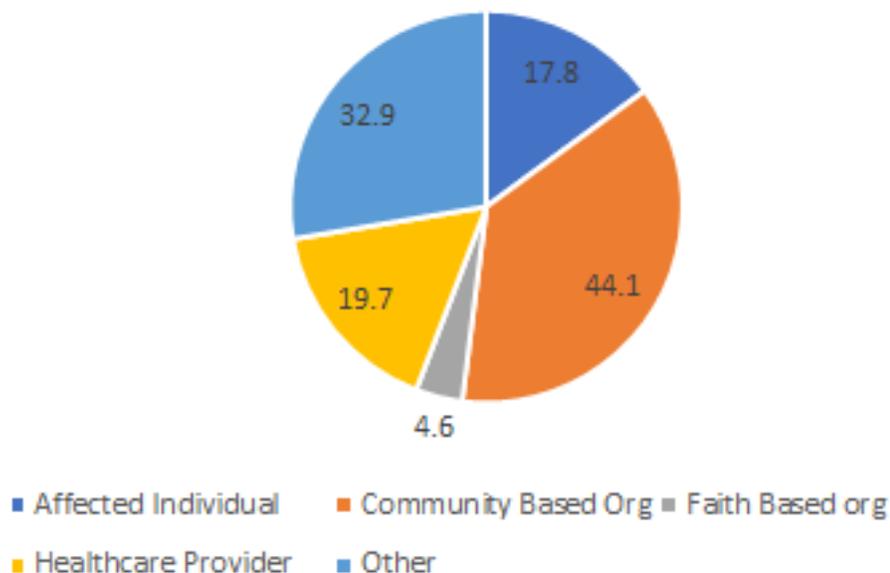
\$125,881
in grants and donations
and registrations

24 out of town
scholarships
awarded. Plus many
local scholarships



"I enjoyed the dialogue between the moderator and panelists-it was open, honest and informative."

Who Attended?



- 73% of attendees were female
- All age groups from 13 to >55 were well represented, with ages 25-34 having the greatest attendance (26%) and 45-54 having the lowest (14%)
- 20% of participants were healthcare providers

87% of the attendees were minorities

**SURVEY
STATISTICS**

FEEDBACK

"The movie was great- 90 Days"

"I've never seen so much networking at this event. It was amazing."

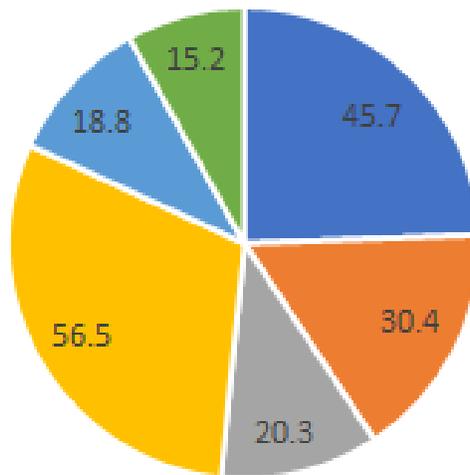
"The posters were fantastic. So much great content and wonderful presentations"

"Speaking truth"



Common areas of improvement noted on surveys included: more time for questions, sound issues, the room was too cold, add more scientific posters and art, add more young adults, and more breakouts.

Why Did You Attend?



■ Content ■ Networking ■ Speakers ■ Personal Growth ■ CEU Credit ■ Other

- 98% of participants said the event was beneficial to their professional life and they would attend again
- 93% of attendees said they would make changes to their practice, organization, or personal life after attending the conference
- 91% of attendees would like to have supplemental events throughout the year
- 89% felt the film "90 Days" helped them gain a better understanding of the effects of stigma on health outcomes

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Emcee - Lisa Fager Bediako

Opening Session

- **Dr. Sohail Rana** opened the event with a brief talk entitled, *More than thirty-five years later...* He invited Imani up on stage to give her own personal perspective.
- **Michael Weinstein**, President and Co-founder, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Los Angeles, California, gave a well received Keynote entitled, *Warning: Stigma is a Danger to Your Health*, in which he shared his own personal struggles with stigma, and discussed self-stigma and prejudice and discrimination, and the importance of bringing stigma out in the open, into the light so it is not allowed to fester.



Morning Session

Community-Based Stigma Research: Is Participation Reality, Rhetoric or Tokenism?

Moderator: Ezer Kang, Ph.D.

Panelists: Anna Helova, MA, MBA, MPH, David Malebranche, MD, MPH, Andrew Spieldenner, Ph.D., Kneeshe Parkinson, Cheriko (Riko) A. Boone, MSW, MPH

The moderator introduced the topic of "What is participatory research? How do we share power between traditional researchers and affected individuals? Following, the 5 panelists each described their research and community work in the field of HIV stigma. This included: pregnant women in Kenya (Anna Helova); Same-Gender Loving Black men (David Malebranche); and consumers of products ultimately developed through biomedical HIV clinical trial research (e.g., PrEP or HIV cure-related; Cheriko Boone) in the US. The process and outcomes of strengthening community-research partnerships from the perspectives of researchers and PLHIV (Andrew Spieldenner, Kneeshe-Parkinson) was also discussed. Presentations were followed by a lively question and answer and discussion session with the audience.

Recognition

Outstanding Stigma Warriors

The following individuals and organizations were recognized for their efforts in fighting stigma through the years: Cynthia Gipson MA, Javed Khan MD, Michael Kharfen, Anthony Wutoh Ph.D., Edwin Powell DA.Ed, Khafre Kujichagulia Abif, Gilead Sciences.

Lunch Session

Promising Futures Youth Performance with Maranda Ward kicked off the lunch session with their annual creative performance including skits, dance, and music.

Lady Raiders step team from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, MD performed for the first time at the International Conference on Stigma and their spirited program was received with great enthusiasm.

Following the Lady Raiders, an original spoken word piece, "*What Happened? Stigma*" was performed by **Michael Lamb**, Prevention Specialist, CAN Community Health Sarasota, FL

The final performance was three musical selections by **Afro Blue**, the nationally acclaimed A Cappella group from Howard University.

Concurrent to and following these performances box lunches were served and there was a poster session and networking opportunities for attendees. In addition, there were displays of art from the Artwork contest and numerous interactive exhibit tables, and opportunities to post to social media.



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Research Update

Keosha Bond, EdD, MPH, CHES, Assistant Professor of Health Behavior and Community Health, Department of Public Health, New York Medical College, who was the first prize winner of the scientific abstract contest, presented her research entitled, "*Race-based stereotypes, stigma, and sexual decision making among young heterosexual African American women.*" She discussed her research conducting four focus groups with 26 African American women between the ages of 18-25, living in a NYC neighborhood with a high HIV prevalence. She concluded that race-based sexual stereotypes may lead African American women to be resistant to learning new information about safer sex practices due to HIV stigma within the African American community. Future research should focus on understanding the social and cultural factors that influence African American women's power in maintaining and improving their sexual health.

Afternoon Session

Act Against Stigma

Moderator: Phill Wilson

Panelists: Roscoe Boyd II, Victor Reyes, Kamilah O. Martin-Proctor, M.A., Cudore L. Snell, DSW, LICSW, Arpita Appannagari

This panel of experts who have been working tirelessly in fighting to reduce stigma in areas of HIV, mental health, drug addiction, and disabilities was assembled to discuss their work in fighting stigma and in sharing their best practices and lessons learned. Each panelist presented on their work, which was followed by an open discussion led by Phill Wilson. Topics included U=U, perinatal HIV, disability advocacy, HIV criminalization, and stigma and mental illness. Phill Wilson addresses the intersectionality of all these issues and how HIV lives in a context of racism, agism, sexism, homophobia, and criminalization. He expressed that siloing all of these conversations would be a mistake. There was an extended and highly interactive question and answer and discussion session with the audience at the end of the panel.

Short Film- "90 Days"

In the latter part of the Act Against Stigma afternoon session, there was a special showing of this film. With the understanding that stigma is a real roadblock to education, information, and action to stop the spread of HIV, the filmmakers used storytelling as a perfect vehicle for advocacy and activism. Their goal is to use entertainment to educate and advocate with a message that "love is greater than anything," including HIV. The film was viewed and discussed with **Phill Wilson** leading an additional panel consisting of **Marnina Miller** of the Positive Women's Network and **Anna E. Fowlkes**, Advocate and Activist.

Call to Action and Candlelight Ceremony

Conference Director, **Sohail Rana, M.D.**, Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health at Howard University and **Khadijah Abdullah-Lardas**, director of Reaching All HIV Positive Muslims in America (RAHMA) teamed up to bring the event to an emotional conclusion with a call for action and a moving candlelight ceremony.



WINNING ABSTRACT

Race-based stereotypes, stigma, and sexual decision making among young heterosexual African American women,

Keosha T. Bond, Ed.D, MPH, *New York Medical College*

Due to their intersecting racial identity and gender identity, African American women are characterized by stigmatizing race-based sexual stereotypes that may contribute to persistent, disproportionately high rates of adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes. There are four stereotypical roles that have influenced the experience of the African American women in the United States, Mammy, Sapphire (Angry Black Women), Jezebel (THOT), and Welfare Queen (Baby Mama), that are derivatives of the institutionalization of slavery. The purpose of this analysis was to explore the influence of race-based sexual stereotypes (RBSS) on the sexual decision-making among young African American women using the intersectional and sexual scripting theories. We conducted four focus groups with 26 African American women between the ages of 18-25, living in a NYC neighborhood with a high HIV prevalence. Qualitative analysis was used to identify emergent themes within the domains of sexual decision making as it relates to safer sex practices including usage of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and partner selection. Thematic analyses revealed that RBSS may cause women to adopt more traditional gender stereotypes, making them less likely to feel empowered in the sexual decision-making. Participants reported that RBSS may lead African American women to be resistant to learning new information about safer sex practices due to HIV stigma within the African American community. RBSS also incited women to feel less empowered within intimate relationships and more likely to jeopardize their sexual wellbeing to affirm themselves in other social areas by engaging in unprotected sex and relationships with men who have multiple sex partners. Future research should focus on understanding the social and cultural factors that influence African American women's power in maintaining and improving their sexual health, including the aforementioned stereotypes which have influenced how others may view them, as well as how they view themselves.

Special Thanks To . . .

Conference Director: Sohail Rana, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health, Howard University

Assistant Directors: Patricia Houston, MS and Edwin Powell, DA, Ed.

Logistics/Volunteer Coordination/Speaker Travel/Reception Committee: Edwin Powell, DA.Ed, Patricia Houston, MS, Saher Iqbal, MPH, Aaron Baltimore, Javed Khan, M.D., Liz Hobson-Powell, Zeyna Diallo, Julia Thompson, Cynthia Gipson, MA, Judy Oranika.

Program/Registration/CEU/Supplemental Programming Committee: Patricia Houston, MS, Cynthia Gipson, MA, Khafre Abif, MLS, Deborah Chin, Latica Hayden, Saher Iqbal, MPH, Loretta Jay, MA, Tamarah Moss, Ph.D., Joey Terrill, Shatabdi Pokharel, David Bowman, M.D., Maranda Ward, Zeyna Diallo

Fundraising/Grant Writing/Vendor/Art/Refreshments/Food Committee: Patricia Houston, MS, Sohail Rana, M.D., Katie Black, Khafre Abif, MLS, Bill Preston, Edwin Powell, DA.Ed, Joey Terill, Tiffany Ketant

Publicity/Communications/Faith-Based Outreach Committee: Sholnn Freeman, Khadijah Abdullah-Lardas, Lisa Fager Bediako, MBA, Linus Ayangwoh Embe, Rebecca Vargas-Jackson, M.D., John Kahura, Javed Khan, M.D., David Bowman, M.D., Sohail Rana, M.D.

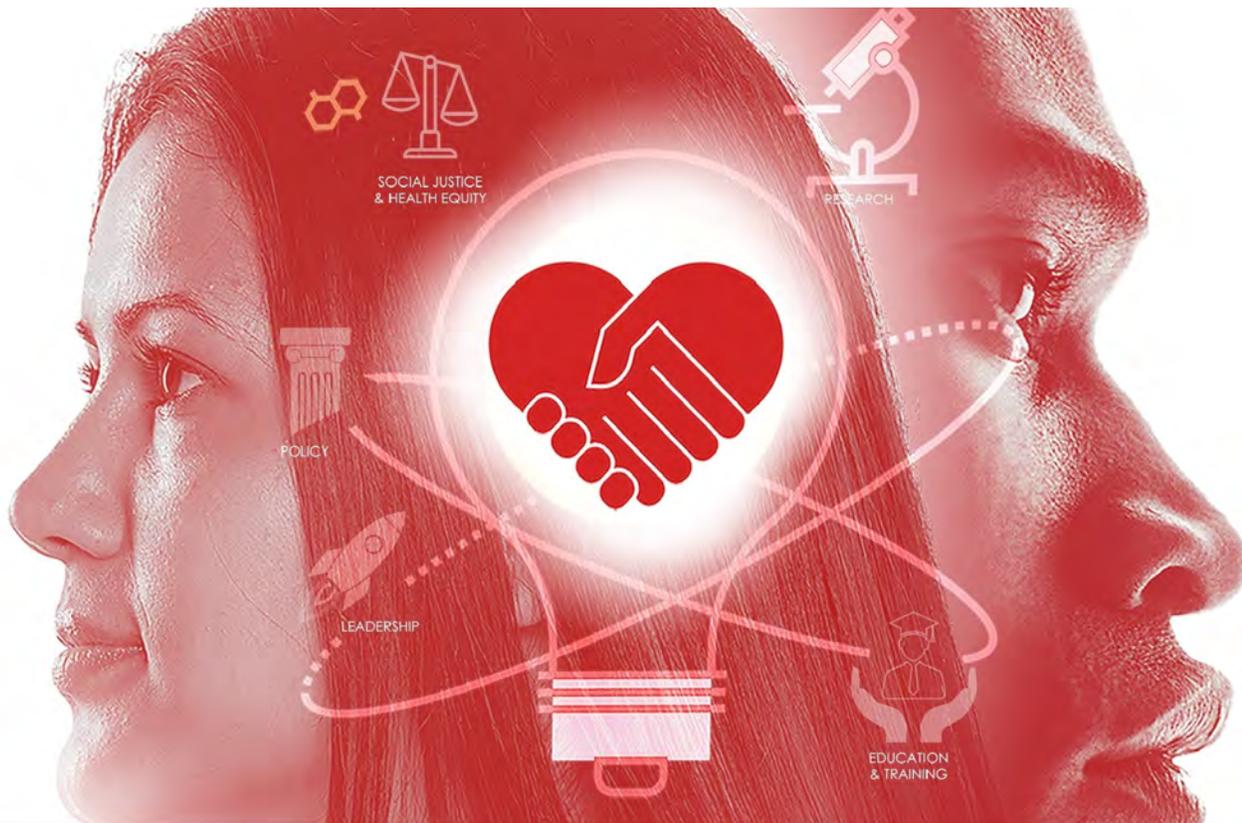
Scientific, Evaluation and Publication Committee: Vicki Hoverman, MA, Shirin Sultana, MSW, Casey Tesfaye, Courtney Hughes Rinker, Ph.D.

Sponsors



Additional Partners and Sponsors: DC DOH- HAHSTA; Digital Conventions; Food by Sodexo; George Mason University; Howard University leadership, faculty, nurses, staff and students; MMG; NIH- NIMHD; PACT Program; Patricia McDougal Photos; Promising Futures; RAHMA; Sohail and Gila Rana; The Women's Collective.

Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by R13MD013718 from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The views expressed in written conference 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 it mention by trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STIGMA

Save the date!

10th Annual Conference

November 22, 2019

www.whocanyoutell.org