

THE TRIBUNE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

Dream Network

PCORI Gets Behind Faith-Based Effort to Combat Depression

Like many people, Keneshia Bryant-Moore, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC, doesn't remember most dreams past breakfast. But then came a dream in 2016. The associate professor in the College of Public Health hurried to campus that morning and shared it with her colleague, Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D.

"I told Tiffany, 'A letter of intent is due to PCORI (Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute) in two days; I'm going to write it about developing a network of faith leaders across Arkansas,'" recalled Bryant-Moore, a 2011 TRI KL2 Scholar Award recipient.

SUSTAINABLE VISION

Bryant-Moore said the dream came as she was considering how to sustain her faith-based approach to addressing depression and other health disparities for African-Americans. She had received her first conference grant from PCORI, which brought together faith leaders and other health advocates from across the state, and she had used her KL2 award to implement a stress management intervention delivered by faith leaders.



Dr. Keneshia Bryant-Moore, standing with the Rev. William Givens, a FAITH Network Community Advisory Board (CAB) member, listens during a discussion involving Clinton School of Public Service practicum students. Clockwise from Bryant-Moore are: Richmond Osei-Danquah (Clinton School), Adam Kleinerman (Clinton School), Cemeka Agugbuem Smith (FAITH Network CAB Member), Katie Clark (Clinton School), Denisse Alanis (Clinton School) and Kimberly Hayman (FAITH Network Project Coordinator).

(Continued on page 2)

Researcher Success Stories Illustrate Need for Quality Support Systems



Dear Colleagues,

As researchers, we know our success does not occur in a vacuum. The best investigators need a quality support system. In this issue of The TRIBune, we illustrate how TRI is playing a role.

With the support of a TRI KL2 Scholar Award in 2011, Dr. Keneshia Bryant-Moore has built a sustainable network of faith-based mental health interventions for rural African-Americans. She has earned five PCORI awards and has the attention of health innovators nationally. She is also replicating her work for Marshallese and Hispanic communities. Dr. Bryant-Moore reminds us that, as a new faculty member from California, she was aided significantly by TRI, which gave her a key community contact in Blytheville. From there, she built the network of faith leaders, community collaborators and co-investigators.

We also feature Dr. Andrew Burrow, who joined UAMS in 2016 with ambitions for clinical trials of rare genetic lysosomal storage diseases. He was happy to find TRI, which provides services that are helping him realize his goals.

We also recognize that TRI does not operate in a vacuum, and we are grateful for the significant support of UAMS, ACH, ACRI, CAVHS and NIH/NCATS. Your truly collaborative spirit has made for a great 2018, and we are looking forward to a banner 2019!

Sincerely,

Laura James, M.D.
Director, TRI
Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical
and Translational Research, UAMS

Dream Network

(Continued from page 1)

Also prior to her dream, community engaged researchers at the UAMS Northwest Campus expressed interest in applying her findings to engage minority communities in that part of the state.

“When we met, we realized how many commonalities there were between the Marshallese and African-Americans,” she said. “The faith community is such a strong part of the community, and addressing health through the faith community is really important for both groups. We wanted to work together.”

NETWORK PURPOSES

PCORI provided \$250,000 to support the project of her dream, The Faith-Academic Initiatives for Transforming Health (FAITH) Network, in 2016. The network has two key purposes: 1) To better enable researchers and the faith community to connect with each other; and 2) To train more faith leaders in patient-centered outcomes research.

The training entails 15 hours of face-to-face meetings and a 40-hour internship. So far, five faith leaders from Pulaski County and eight from Mississippi County have completed the training.

Funding for the FAITH Network expired at the end of November, but it will live on as a nonprofit called Vine and Village.

Bryant-Moore has also partnered with the Clinton School of Public Service, working with four practicum students developing a mental health resource guide and researching the best ways to disseminate it in the community.

EXPANDING SUPPORT

This fall, PCORI awarded Bryant-Moore an additional \$250,000 for training Marshallese and Hispanic faith leaders, with translations of the curriculum to their languages. She is among a handful of UAMS researchers with multiple PCORI awards, having received five dating to 2016.

There’s no real secret to her PCORI success, she said. “We just listen to the community and make them the center of everything. The work that I do is driven by what I am hearing from them and what they’re saying their needs are.”

Her work has also drawn interest nationally. The FAITH Network team became the first in Arkansas invited to join the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health. In addition, her team was honored with a visit Nov. 19 by Stakeholder Health and national health leaders interested in innovative health programs such as the FAITH Network.

STARS ALIGN

Bryant-Moore’s passion for treating depression dates to her early career as a family nurse practitioner treating adults with major depressive disorder. She pursued a nursing doctorate, choosing Azusa Pacific University in California because the program incorporates religiosity, spirituality and how belief systems affect health.

At UAMS, as she was beginning her two-year KL2 project, TRI provided her with a community contact in Blytheville who had an interest in addressing depression. What followed were introductions to numerous pastors in the Delta – her portal to the community - and future research collaborators.

“It was like all the stars were aligning for me,” Bryant-Moore said. “And it was made possible by TRI. I will always be grateful for that.”

Researcher Profile



Keneshia Bryant-Moore, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC

Associate Professor, College of Public Health

What inspired you to become a researcher?

The desire to help my patients and other community members to better understand depression and how to connect them to services

What do you like most about your area of research?

The opportunity to collaborate with community organizations and members

What career would you have chosen if not research?

I love to travel and talking about travel destinations... so a travel agent

What current or former researcher (from anywhere) do you admire most? Why?

Dr. Thomas LaVeist for his internationally known work in health disparities and inequities

TRI Begins Research Fundamentals Seminar Series

All UAMS-affiliated researchers, and especially early career researchers, are invited to attend TRI’s new Research Fundamentals Seminar Series, which begins **Friday, Dec. 7**. The seminar will be from **noon to 1:30 p.m., Education II Building, Room 8121**.

Led by Mary Aitken, M.D., a professor of pediatrics and TRI KL2 Scholar Program director, the seminar is designed with an interactive format that will provide the tools and resources you need to become a successful researcher.

The bimonthly seminar series continues in 2019 on Feb. 1, April 5 and June 6.

Rare Diseases Researcher Glad to Find TRI



Dr. Andrew Burrow's goals include establishing a center of excellence for lysosomal storage diseases.

Andrew Burrow, M.D., FAAP, FACMGG, is a researcher in a hurry. When the 2003 UAMS College of Medicine graduate returned to UAMS in 2016, he wanted to quickly continue his investigation of lysosomal storage disease therapies.

In just two years, Burrow has opened five clinical trials through TRI. Having overseen clinical trials at the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, he said he was relieved to find TRI when he arrived at UAMS.

DOWN PAT

"I was very happily surprised to find a well-structured program in TRI," said Burrow, who "TRI has this down pat. They have really impressed me in their ability to effectively handle all of the stages of a clinical trial, and they have made my life very, very easy, which I greatly appreciate."

The clinical and medical biochemical geneticist noted that Cincinnati Children's is world-renowned for its research and treatment of lysosomal storage diseases. He wants to help build a similar reputation for UAMS.

"There is a tremendous opportunity at UAMS for establishing a center of excellence for lysosomal storage diseases," he said, adding that there are no such centers within a 250-mile radius of Little Rock.

CHANGING OUTCOMES

There are nearly 50 lysosomal storage diseases. The rare genetic diseases affect the ability of the lysosomes in the body's cells to break down proteins and can be devastating for patients.

"What we are doing is not just science, but truly changing the outcome for our patients," Burrow said. "We're finding newer, better treatments that will be more efficacious, safer and easier to administer. UAMS is now very much at the forefront of developing precision medicine for these very rare genetic conditions."

Research on the Horizon: New TRI Study of the Month



Seth Berney, M.D., (left) with TRI's Danielle Evans, regulatory lead for the study.

- **UAMS Principal Investigator:** Seth Berney, M.D., Professor, Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine
- **Summary:** A 2-part phase 2 study evaluating the efficacy and safety of the study drug BIIB059 in reducing active skin and active joint disease and other manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).
- **Significance:** There is no cure for SLE, which the CDC estimates affects nearly 500,000 people in the U.S.
- **TRI Services:** Medicare coverage analysis, study budget review and negotiation, IRB submission, completion of sponsor's regulatory startup packet, training for study staff/investigators, oversight of enrollment startup, and research nurse coordinator services.
- **Sponsor:** Biogen

TRIBUTES

The following UAMS researchers cited the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in publications after utilizing TRI resources or funding:

Cehade M, Jones SM, Pesek RD, Burks AW, Vickery BP, Wood RA, Leung DYM, Furuta GT, Fleischer DM, Henning AK, Dawson P, Lindblad RW, Sicherer SH, Abonia JP, Sherrill JD, Sampson HA and Rothenberg ME. "Phenotypic Characterization of Eosinophilic Esophagitis in a Large Multicenter Patient Population from the Consortium for Food Allergy Research." *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract* 2018 Sep - Oct **6**(5): 1534-1544.e1535.

Latham JI and Blevins JS. "Generation of Conditional Mutants in *Borrelia burgdorferi*." *Methods Mol Biol* 2018 **1690**: 225-239.

McElfish PA, Chughtai A, Low LK, Garner R and Purvis RS. "Just Doing the Best We Can': Health Care Providers' Perceptions of Barriers to Providing Care to Marshallese Patients in Arkansas." *Ethn Health* 2018 May 4: 1-14.

McElfish PA, Long CR, Selig JP, Rowland B, Purvis RS, James L, Holland A, Felix HC and Narcisse MR. "Health Research Participation, Opportunity, and Willingness among Minority and Rural Communities of Arkansas." *Clin Transl Sci* 2018 Sep 11(5): 487-497.

Padala PR, Padala KP, Lensing SY, Jackson AN, Hunter CR, Parkes CM, Dennis RA, Bopp MM, Caceda R, Mennemeier MS, Roberson PK and Sullivan DH. "Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Apathy in Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Double-Blind, Randomized, Sham-Controlled, Cross-over Pilot Study." *Psychiatry Res* 2018 Mar **261**: 312-318.

Swindle T, Sigman-Grant M, Branen LJ, Fletcher J and Johnson SL. "About Feeding Children: Factor Structure and Internal Reliability of a Survey to Assess Mealtime Strategies and Beliefs of Early Childhood Education Teachers." *Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act* 2018 Sep 10 15(1): 85.

Thank you for remembering to cite TRI in your publications resulting from studies that receive TRI support.
Find the appropriate citation language at tri.uams.edu/about-tri-2/cite-tri.

The TRIBUTE is produced by the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI).

WEBSITE:
TRI.uams.edu

EMAIL:
TRI@uams.edu

TRI MAIN NUMBER:
(501) 614-2287

Editor
David Robinson

Designer
Leslie Norris

TRI Director
Laura James, M.D.