

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Delaware State University National Institutes of Health Research Grant

Melissa A Harrington, PhD
Associate Vice-President for Research
Director, Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research
Co-director, Health Equity Research Center
Delaware State University



Health Disparities Research at DSU

Melissa A. Harrington, PhD
Associate Vice President for Research



DSU is on the rise...



Delaware State University

US News & World Report
HBCU College Rankings
Delaware State University
ranked

#2 PUBLIC

#8 OVERALL

"At Delaware State University, we are not obsessed with rankings; we, like all of our sister institutions, are obsessed with STUDENTS and their desire to change their life trajectories—for themselves, their families, and their communities. That's what makes us proud and our STUDENTS ready, resilient, and strong."
- Tony Allen, Ph.D., President



DSU moves up in
rankings for HBCUs

US News & World
Report
“Best Colleges”

The enrollment is growing

Record enrollment

5,504 undergrads

437 MS students

219 Doctoral students in

Applied Chem

Applied Math & Physics

Integrated Ag, Food & Env.
Sci.

Ed. Leadership

Neuroscience

Optics

Grant News...

DSU awarded a U54 Research Centers at Minority Institutions (RCMI) grant to initiate the Interdisciplinary Health Equity Research (IHER) Center

**\$18.3 million for 5 years
Melissa Harrington & Sangeeta Gupta,
Co-Principal Investigators**



IHER CENTER FOCUS

- Overarching goal is to develop DSU as a leader in health equity research by fostering innovative research initiatives and robust collaborative community partnerships with stakeholders across Delaware.
- Center will embrace a **Community First in All Research** (CFiAR) with communities engaged in all aspects of the research
- Particular focus on Kent & Sussex counties and growing research related to social determinants of health.



Ongoing IHER Research Subprojects



Janeese A. Brownlow, PhD

Assistant Professor of Psychology

An investigation of Mental, Physical, & Sleep Health: The Role of Social Determinants



Brian McNaughton, PhD

**Senior Fellow, Delaware Institute for Science & Technology
Integrating Low-Cost Paper-Based Devices and Personalized
Immunotherapeutics to Treat Triple Negative Breast Cancer**



Sokratis Makrogiannis, PhD

**Associate Professor, Division of Physics, Engineering,
Mathematics, & Computer Science**

**Machine Learning-based Imaging Biomarkers for Metabolic and
Age-related Diseases**



Derald
Wentzien,
Dept. of Bus.
Admin



Brian
McNaughton



Gwen Scott-Jones
Dean, WCHBS

IHER Program Areas



Research Capacity Core

- Supports existing research resources such as DSU's research support facilities in microscopy, cell electrophysiology and DNA sequencing.
- Establishes a new Qualitative Research & Evaluation Core to support health disparities research particularly community engaged research.
- Links with Biostats, Epidemiology, Research Design Core of ACCEL
- Funds research laboratory renovations

Investigator Development Core

Supports a pilot program of health disparities research grants
\$50,000/year for 2 years – 2 rounds of 5 grants will be awarded

Recruitment Core

- Supports hiring of faculty with a focus on health disparities research
- 2 mid-career, 1 junior
- Salary + start-up support for research

IHER Program Areas



Dorothy Dillard
Director, Center
for Neighborhood
Revitalization &
Research

Community Engagement & Dissemination Core

- Supports training in community-engaged health equity research for faculty and students
- Will establish a Community Consultation Council (CCC) and collaborate with them to carry out a Community Needs & Assets Assessment for Kent & Sussex County.
- Supports mini-grants for teams of DSU researchers, students and community partners for collaborative activities to address health disparities.
 - Evaluate outcomes of existing community-based programs
 - Implement & assess new interventions
 - Disseminate successful community-based programs
 - Disseminate research findings relevant to the health of residents of Kent & Sussex Counties

IHER OVERALL LEADERSHIP

Pulling everything together.....



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