








integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia

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# iTHRIV Supports Summer Programs for the Next Generation of Researchers

## DATA JUSTICE ACADEMY

The School of Data Science welcomed 18 undergraduate students to the 2022 Data Justice Academy. Students participated in nine weeks of intensive research on topics ranging from health disparities and housing inequality to criminal justice and education. iTHRIV was proud to provide technical support and mentorship in the program.

In addition to mentored research, students participated in technical skills training and professional development with data science faculty and staff.

The Data Justice Academy is designed as an immersive residential experience for undergraduate students from groups historically underrepresented in data science.



## CUBE

This summer, the iTHRIV BERD Research Methods Core piloted an 8-week Collaborative Undergraduate Biostatistics Experience (CUBE) program. This summer's program hosted four students: two at University of Virginia (UVA) and two at Virginia Tech (VT).

CUBE focused on bringing attention to, and diversifying, the profession of collaborative biostatistics. The program is built on four pillars: training in introductory biostatistics; training in R programming; professional development; and mentorship through a collaborative research project.



CUBE is partially funded by iTHRIV, and is jointly administered by Virginia Tech's Center for Biostatistics and Health Data Science (CBHDS) and UVA's Division of Biostatistics in the Department of Public Health Sciences.

## SOAR

SOAR (Summer Opportunities in Academic Research) is a summer program for high school students in Charlottesville and Albemarle County who are under-represented in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math STEM, as defined by NIH guidelines.

Participating students were paired with research mentors at the University of Virginia (UVA) and introduced to numerous topics and career avenues in science and medicine during morning didactic sessions and afternoon research in mentor labs.

Through a summer of hands on education, mentoring, and biomedical research experiences, SOAR works to inspire high school students to pursue careers in science.



## **Inova Announces its 4th Annual Healthcare Disparities Conference:**

### *A Call for Collaboration: Intersectionality and Health Equity*

The 2022 online, half-day symposium for healthcare professionals will address the role sociocultural barriers and intersecting identities play in the care of culturally and ethnically diverse patients. Invited speakers will discuss local, regional and national approaches to improving awareness and overcoming bias.

In order to provide this essential information to the widest audience, the program is being provided free of charge, with the goal of reaching and engaging as many as stakeholders as possible.

The impact and reach of this annual conference have steadily increased over the past three years. The first conference, held in 2019, was an in-person event highlighting the significance of health disparities and discussing ways to advance research and practice related to health disparities and social determinants of health. This inaugural conference inspired an interdisciplinary, multi-institution group to establish an annual event in partnership with iTHRIV. The second and third annual conferences were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and found a receptive audience of healthcare teams throughout Virginia and across the country.

The third annual conference was held in 2021 and focused on providing strategies for advancing health equity and implementing change in practice settings and communities. Speakers shared approaches to being a community ally by supporting departmental, institutional, and governmental policy changes that promote health equity.

When asked how the 2021 conference would change how the participants relate to or communicate with patients and colleagues, one individual shared, “I will take pause before I assume I understand where someone is coming from, especially when interacting with patients. I will actively recognize my own biases, not just those of others.”

The planning committee includes a team of healthcare professionals; educators; diversity, equity and inclusion leaders; and team members from Inova, the University of Virginia, Carilion Clinic, Virginia Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and iTHRIV. Given the virtual conferences’ national reach, the committee decided to maintain the conference format for 2022.

### **Keynote Speaker**

The planning committee is excited to announce our keynote speaker:

### **Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, MD, MS**

Dr. Oluwaferanmi Okanlami is the Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services at the University of Michigan, where he oversees the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, two testing accommodation centers, and the Adaptive Sports and Fitness Program. He is also an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Urology at Michigan Medicine, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He has a catch phrase – “Disabusing Disability®” – through which he hopes to demonstrate that DISability does not mean INability.

In addition, the conference will include presentations focusing on community and individual experiences of inequity and collaborative strategies for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

The registration link will be available in early September.

Persons wishing for more information on the program may contact Leigh Guarinello at [leigh.guarinello@inova.org](mailto:leigh.guarinello@inova.org).

### Diversity Conference Planning Committee

Karen Brown, MAEd, Center Director,  
Northern Virginia AHEC

Deron Campbell, MPH, Director, Community  
Health Programs, Inova

Eugenie Charles, MD, Chief Diversity Officer,  
Commonwealth Emergency Physicians;  
Medical Director, Inova Loudoun Concussion  
Clinic

Leah Chedid, Program Coordinator, Inova  
Community Health

Leigh Guarinello, MPH, Director, Community  
Health Programs, Inova

Kristin Miller, Partnership Manager, University  
of Virginia

Tijani Musa, MPH Student, George Mason  
University

Kat O'Donnell, MSW, LCSW, Manager of  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Inova

Molly Roberts, MPH, Community Benefit  
Manager, Carilion Clinic

Elyssa Wood, PhD, RN, MPH, RN, FAEN, CPEN,  
TCRN, Nursing Research Scientist, Inova

**SAVE THE DATE**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthcare Disparities Conference**  
**A Call for Collaboration: Intersectionality and Health Equity**  
**October 18, 2022 • 12:30 pm - 3:15 pm (Free)**

This **online**, half-day symposium for healthcare professionals will address the role sociocultural barriers and intersecting identities play in the care of culturally and ethnically diverse patients.

Invited speakers will discuss local, regional and national approaches to improving awareness and overcome bias.

Participants will have the opportunity to hear colleagues and community partners discuss their experiences with inequity and explore opportunities to improve the healthcare experience for patients, families and healthcare teams.

**Target Audience:** Physicians, Nurses, Advanced Practice Providers, Health Professions Students, Social Workers and other allied healthcare professionals.

**Keynote Speaker:**



**Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, MD, MS**  
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Urology  
Director - Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services, Division of Student Life  
Director - Services for Students with Disabilities, Division of Student Life  
Director - Testing Accommodation Centers, Division of Student Life  
Director - Adaptive Sports & Fitness, Division of Student Life  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles

CME, CNE, CEU pending.  
Registration opens in September



## iTHRIV Under the Microscope, SPECIAL EDITION: Kayla Calvo

“Oh my gosh, there are so many people I need to thank! Where do I even start?” Kayla Calvo proclaims with a smile. Calvo is a recipient of the 2022 Hoos Building Bridges Award, one of a select group being recognized for driving the creation of cross-disciplinary partnerships and generating positive outcomes across Grounds. According to [UVA Today](#), the award “honor[s] recipients for their leadership, collegiality and efforts in establishing strong relationships.” The award is a reflection of the broad excellence and forward thinking Calvo demonstrates daily in her role at the integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV).

Calvo is the Director of Finance for iTHRIV. She ensures that the needs of the organization and the researchers iTHRIV supports are met. On a typical day Calvo handles a large variety of accounting and grant administration responsibilities. She is also known to drop everything to support a fellow research administrator with submitting a funding proposal. She handles all of this with grace and professionalism.

Calvo joined UVA in 2014 as a temp tasked with reorganizing the Division of Infectious Diseases’ financial documents. It was during this time that she was first introduced to research administration. Just over a year later, while working as an Administrative Assistant within the Department of Medicine, Calvo’s career took an unexpected turn: “My supervisor recognized that I would be a great research administrator, so I took it upon myself to read the SF424 application guide to learn how to submit an NIH proposal.”



It was through this experience that she identified a gap affecting personnel within research administration: the lack of a structured mentoring program. “I thought that the University needed a formal training program for research admins. This is such a specialized job and there are so many rules and regulations that it is really hard to figure things out without help from others.” At that moment, she came up with the idea to create the Research Administration Portal for Training and Resources (RAPTR). “I have always felt it was important to have a mentor. As I gained experience, I made myself available to any new research administrator for advice and training.” The goal of [RAPTR](#) is to increase the knowledge base of the research administration workforce by creating training programs, providing tools and resources, and standardizing research administration processes.

The real catalyst for RAPTR’s creation came about as the result of a chance conversation. Calvo recalls, “When I was training a new research admin in late 2019, I was talking to a colleague in iTHRIV about how I really wished we could develop a program to train research administrators. She took it to our PI, Karen Johnston, who loved the idea!” With Dr. Karen Johnston’s support, Calvo formed a working group to develop the program.

The newest program within RAPTR is [RAMP UP](#), the Research Administration Mentoring Program and University Partnership. RAMP UP is currently a pilot program and is a partnership with iTHRIV, the School of Medicine Office of Grants and Contracts, the UVA Office of Sponsored Programs, and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

“RAMP UP is the accomplishment that I am most proud of! We have been developing this program for about 9 months and the response to the program announcement has been overwhelmingly positive! My favorite part of this process has been working with other departments on this program,” Calvo says.

Calvo has big plans for RAPTR. She aims to create a thriving mentoring program with a community of research administrators from across the University. Currently the program provides training for new research administrators, but Calvo envisions implementing certificate programs and a continuing education program for all research administrators at UVA. Looking ahead, Calvo foresees this program branching out to other institutions in Virginia and across the Clinical Translational Science Awards Program ([CTSA](#)), a nationwide consortium. “It is our hope that other institutions can take our framework and implement these programs for their research admin workforce!”

## Meet an iTHRIV Scholar Mentor

William Petri

Wade Hampton Frost Professor of Medicine and Vice Chair for Research of the Department of Medicine  
Professor of Medicine, Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology, and Pathology, Medicine: Infectious  
Diseases and International Health, Medicine: Infectious Diseases and International Health

“Dr. Petri is a clinician and internationally-recognized researcher who studies the molecular biology and immunology of infectious diseases. Dr. Petri recognized the potential for advances in our understanding of host pathogen interactions to advance my work with *C. difficile* and has been a steadfast supporter of my journey to become an independent clinician scientist.” - **Gregory Madden, MD**





## Resource Highlight – Resources to Improve Representativeness in Research Studies

Improving representativeness is a social justice issue and a health issue.

Representation in clinical trials that is the same as the prevalence of the population with the condition or disease is challenging and also vital, in order for the clinicians to have confidence in the data resulting from said clinical trials. Improving representativeness is a social justice issue and a health issue.

[Learn more](#)

