

VANESSA B. SHEPPARD, PhD
Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control
Virginia Commonwealth University

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY
CAREER OVERVIEW

Dr. Sheppard is an internationally recognized, award-winning researcher and higher education administrator who recently served as the founding dean of a new School of Public Health at Virginia Commonwealth University. She advanced through the administrative ranks, from assistant director to chair, then associate director, associate vice president, and, most recently, founding dean. For over 20 years, Dr. Sheppard has consistently secured peer-reviewed funding. She leads research programs that engage the community and oversees academic training programs involving both undergraduate and graduate students. A hallmark of her leadership and scholarship is her dedication to co-creating strategies with communities to improve health. She has received awards from national and community-based organizations. Dr. Sheppard has been honored as the American Cancer Society Researcher of the Year. In 2025, she was recognized for her leadership in public health.

SELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences --and-- FOUNDING DEAN (Interim, 2023 -- 2025)
School of Public Health
Virginia Commonwealth University

Position Description: Reporting to the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, the Dean oversees the school's educational, research, and community service missions. The school consists of four departments and one center, featuring approximately 56 full-time faculty members, 20 adjunct faculty members, and 120 students, supported by an annual budget of \$30 million. Oversaw multi-site public health education and community programming spanning Richmond, Northern Virginia, and statewide Virginia catchment areas in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health and regional nonprofit partners.

Major accomplishments:

- Developed the SOPH's financial, academic, staffing, resource, and technological infrastructure.
- Created advisory committees that drew on support and diverse perspectives from across campuses, health department officials, non-profit partners, faculty, and staff.
- Collaborated with multiple stakeholders to develop and execute an engaged strategic planning process.
- Developed proposals accepted by the State Council for Higher Education to establish the SOPH.
- Achieved national CEPH accreditation approval within just six months for self-study.
- Guided and initiated the school's undergraduate education initiatives, new online programs (Biostatistics, MPH), and graduate education programs.
- Drove the creation of a vision for the SOPH, supporting new teams of scientists across the school focused on addressing major public health issues, resulting in several team science submissions and a new NIH award.
- Research expenditures increased by 58% to \$9.5M since 2023.
- Raised more than \$77,000 in philanthropic gifts in FY 2024 for the SOPH, setting new unit records.
- Career philanthropic fundraising total exceeds \$1.2 million for health sciences education and community health initiatives.
- Increased overall enrollment by 50% and 20% increase in undergraduate tuition revenue.
- Achieved ranking in the top 50 Schools of Public Health for federal funding (2025)
- Developed online MPH (Spring 2026 launch), and the Bachelor of Science in Public Health

MPI, Director of Cancer Care Delivery Research — VCU Minority/Underserved NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP)

National Cancer Institute / NIH 2021–present \$1.2M

Leads a federally funded multi-site NCI network program focused on cancer care delivery research and minority/underserved accrual to clinical trials across affiliated sites. Oversees scientific direction, community partner engagement, and cross-site coordination within the national NCORP network.

- Directs Cancer Care Delivery Research program serving communities across Virginia.
- Oversees research portfolio integration across NCORP community-based affiliate sites; ensures scientific rigor and protocol compliance.
- Drives strategies to increase access to clinical trials across Virginia
- Engaged clinical and research faculty in protocols - >50% increase in site and clinical engagement

DEPARTMENT CHAIR (2016 -- 2022)

Department of Health Behavior and Policy

School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University

Position Description: Oversee the educational and research programs within a department featuring over 25 direct reports, including faculty and administrative staff. Managed an annual budget of approximately \$7 million. Coordinated multi-institutional research and training programs with Virginia State University, Virginia Department of Health, and community-based partners across Central and Southern Virginia.

Major accomplishments:

- Created a new vision for the newly merged departments and halted faculty attrition.
- Developed health policy concentration in MD/PhD program.
- Developed department faculty mentoring program and improved retention and funding.
- Hired seven faculty and mentored junior faculty to receive funding (K01; R21; R01 awards).
- Revamped student seminars; developed professional development component.
- Reduced the years to a degree for students and improved retention.
- Developed new research and academic teams within the department that positively engaged graduate students in submitting proposals and manuscripts.
- Through mentorship and programming, increased % of female full professors from 25% to 57%.
- Grew financial reserves and improved economic stewardship and fiscal responsibility.
- Peer-reviewed funding and other alternative funding strategies for students improved student support by 100%, reducing departmental costs for unfunded graduate students.

INAUGURAL ASSOCIATE CENTER DIRECTOR (2016 -- 2024)

AD for Disparities Research (2016-2019) AD for COE and Disparities Research (2019-2024)

Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Virginia Commonwealth University

Position Description: This role is equivalent to an Associate Dean within a school or college structure. With a budget of \$2.9 million, the charge was to develop and lead the cancer center's community engagement and health disparities research endeavors, encompassing basic science, population science, clinical science, and community-based research. Led a multi-site community engagement and research enterprise spanning rural and urban Virginia, including mobile health education vans deployed statewide, regional outreach engagement sites, and community-based research registries serving the 166 localities in the NCI catchment area.

Major accomplishments:

- Expanded community navigation and care interventions from 0 persons served (2017) to 210 individuals (2022); catchment-area reach grew from 9,912 persons (2016) to 80,851 — driven by multi-site navigation programs, mobile health education vans, and rural/urban engagement sites deployed across Virginia's cancer catchment area.
- Grew and retained staff (from 10 to 22).
- Started new academic degree programs and program concentrations.
- Secured funding for training grants for faculty and post-doctoral fellows (e.g., R25, T32, etc.).
- Led team science grant development resulting in multiple MPI R01 awards and secured the first NCI Cancer Center Resource-Limited (P20) grant solely housed in Virginia — the VSU-Massey SUCCEED Partnership for Cancer Disparities Research and Training.
- Facilitated state policy changes during COVID; clergy were added as essential workers.
- Health promotion efforts produced a 53% increase in HPV vaccination uptake in priority regions.

- 60% increase in catchment-relevant MPI and/or team science grants.
- Secured funding to support training for basic scientists in community-engaged research, which resulted in a 44% increase in willingness to participate in community engagement.
- Developed and implemented a community seed grant program, distributing over \$100,000 in communities.
- Received over \$1M in philanthropic funds for community initiatives including endowed community programming, two health education vans, and a \$100,000+ community seed grant fund distributed across priority catchment communities.
- Secured funding to support cancer patients from low-income backgrounds (parking, transportation).
- Raised funding for two health education vans that are deployed across Virginia's priority areas.
- Received an exceptional rating.

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, OFFICES OF HEALTH EQUITY AND DISPARITIES RESEARCH and COMMUNITY OUTREACH ENGAGEMENT (2018 -- 2024)

Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Virginia Commonwealth University

Position Description: Responsible for overseeing various education and engagement sites, recruiting and training faculty and staff, developing health and cancer education initiatives, and facilitating bi-directional engagement between residents and researchers.

Major accomplishments:

- Developed and outfitted rural outreach research engagement sites.
- Implemented cancer prevention and control in middle and high schools within health curricula.
- Conducted a community assessment of over 1,000 participants in English and Spanish.
- Successfully trained community members as research champions (N=80; 60% regularly engaged).
- Funded community organizations to engage in research and education activities.
- Secured over \$2 million in grants to support education and navigation activities.
- Consulted and trained over 60 faculty members in cancer disparities and community engagement.
- Developed undergraduate and graduate courses in health equity and disparities.
- Developed cross-campus training in clinical trials and community engagement.

CO-LEADER OF THE CANCER PREVENTION CONTROL PROGRAM (CPC) (2016 -- 2020)

Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Virginia Commonwealth University

Position Description: Responsible for leading the CPC scientific research program of 50 members across the university, mentoring faculty, setting funding priorities, and overseeing the development of NIH-fundable research projects.

Major accomplishments:

- Increased CPC program membership with new faculty and trainees.
- Developed and held scientific retreats to develop scientific teams.
- Grew the disparities research portfolio by 30%.
- Established new university partnerships (e.g., College of Engineering, College of Humanities & Sciences).
- Provided travel and research awards to CPC members to enhance grant submissions.
- Established initial clinically focused research projects within the center.
- Secured funding to co-lead a task force to improve the collection of tobacco use.
- Received an outstanding program rating.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

Office of Minority Health, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center Georgetown University

Description: Charged to develop, lead, and evaluate initiatives; mentor faculty, fellows, and students.

Major accomplishments:

- Mentored trainees in the development of funding applications and peer-reviewed publications.
- Led training grant in breast cancer research (e.g., Komen).
- Assisted trainees with the development of funding applications and professional development.

SELECTED NATIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

- Researcher of the Year, American Cancer Society
- Egretta Health Innovator Award, Association of Women Business Centers
- Distinguished Alumni, College of Health Sciences, Old Dominion University
- Perseverance Award, First SDA Church, Washington, DC
- Healthcare Innovator Award, African Women's Cancer Awareness Association Inc.
- R. Davilene Carter Presidential Prize for Best Manuscript, American Association for Cancer Education
- Torchbearer Service Award, African Women's Cancer Awareness Association, Inc.
- Health Disparities Scholar, National Institutes of Health
- Recognition for Outstanding Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- Herbert W. Nickens, M.D., Faculty Achievement Award, Association of American Medical Colleges

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY

ADVISORY BOARDS

- Vice Chair, Health Disparities Committee, Alliance Oncology Clinical Trials Network
- Breast Cancer Disparities Consultant; Breast Cancer, Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network
- Co-chair External Advisory Board T32 Program, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
- External Scientific Advisory Board; Buffet Cancer Center External Advisory Board
- Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center External Scientific Advisory Board
- Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center External Scientific Advisory Committee
- T32 Interdisciplinary Training in Cancer Prevention & Control External Advisory Board, Indiana University Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - President Obama's Breast Cancer in Young Women Committee
- Wake Forrest Research Base, Cancer Care Delivery Committee

NATIONAL GRANT REVIEW PANELS

- NIH National Cancer Institute P30 Cancer Center Support Grants
- NIH National Cancer Institute Individual Grant Review Study Section
- NIH-NINR Nursing-Related Clinical Services Study Section
- American Cancer Society Cancer Control and Prevention - Psychosocial and Behavioral Committee
- NIH Health Disparities Special Emphasis Panel

SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATION OVERVIEW - >150 peer-reviewed publications, six chapters, and two white papers. Selected thematic clusters: Cardio-Oncology Disparities (publications #6, 10, 11, 19, 20, 35, 39, 44, 45, 51); Treatment Adherence and Patient-Clinician Communication (#1, 2, 16, 59, 67, 70, 79, 84, 126, 132); Supportive Care and Symptom Science (#3, 4, 18, 29, 31, 64, 65, 67); Genetic Counseling (#8, 9, 30, 57, 71, 75, 76, 95, 116).

GRANT SUPPORT AGENCIES (>30 million career as PI/MPI/lead roles)

- American Cancer Society
- National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS
- YMCA of Greater Richmond
- National Science Foundation
- The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
- Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C) Foundation

SURVIVORSHIP SCIENCE: RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS: Dr. Sheppard's survivorship science portfolio is organized around three interlocking programmatic areas. The first is treatment adherence and patient-clinician communication, anchored by the Women's Hormonal Initiation and Persistence Study (WHIP) and the Sisters Informing Sisters™ (SIS) active randomized clinical trial, which together represent sustained funded behavioral intervention programs targeting AET adherence disparities in breast cancer survivors. This line of work extends into digital health through TALKBACK-DTx, an NCI R34 application (PAR-25-104) developing a digital

therapeutic to improve treatment adherence and communication quality in survivorship care. The second area is supportive care and symptom science, encompassing toxicity decision-making (chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, treatment tradeoffs), psychosocial oncology (trust, medical mistrust, spiritual care), and patient-reported outcomes across racially and socioeconomically diverse survivor populations — including collaborative work with clinical pharmacists and oncologists on medication management in cancer care. The third is an emerging program in cardio-oncology disparities, with peer-reviewed publications in JACC: CardioOncology and Cardiooncology examining racial differences in cardiac toxicity, cardiovascular risk after cancer treatment, and disparities in cardioprotective care — a portfolio that positions Dr. Sheppard as a bridge between behavioral survivorship science and the growing cardio-oncology field.

MENTORING AND TEACHING LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Current mentor to six faculty members and many graduate students and post-docs
- **National Invited Talks:** Baltimore, MD; Cleveland, OH; Washington, DC; Dartmouth, NH; San Antonio, TX; Rochester, NY; Bethesda, MD; Atlanta, GA; Miami, FL; Chicago, IL
- **International Invited Talks:** Durban, South Africa; Kigali, Rwanda; Lagos, Nigeria; Cape Town, South Africa, Paris France, Toronto, Canada, Greece

CURRICULUM VITAE

Vanessa B. Sheppard, PhD

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- B.A., Public Administration and Political Science; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
- M.A., Urban Affairs, Sociology; Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- PhD, Health Services Research; Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Health Services Research; Epidemiology, Eastern Virginia Medical School, VA
- Fellow, Health Services Research; Association of American Medical Colleges, AHRQ

CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Higher Education Resources Leadership Training Institute (academic leadership), 2012
- American Association of American Medical Colleges, Department Chair Training, 2016
- Department Chair Training: VCU Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute, 2017
- Clinical Cancer Research and Intervention Methods; 2011 – 2025; American Cancer Society
- Methods in Health Disparities Research, National Institutes of Health, 2002
- R25 Trainee: Cancer, Culture, and Health Literacy, Moffitt Cancer Center, University of South Florida, 2002 – 2003
- Minority Health Research Methods Certificate, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998
- Long-Term Care Administration Certificate, Old Dominion Office of Continuing Education, 1996
- Health Care Administration Certificate, Old Dominion University, 1992

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, RICHMOND, VA (2016 -- present)

- 2016 -- present: Professor (tenured), VCU School of Medicine, School of Public Health
- 2024 -- present: Senior Scientific Advisor, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2022 -- 2025: Founding Dean (Interim), VCU School of Population Health (2023) Public Health
- 2022 -- 2023: Associate Vice President for Population and Public Health Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Senior Vice-President for Health Sciences
- 2021--present: Director of Cancer Care Delivery Research and MPI— VCU NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP)
- 2016 -- 2024: Professor (tenured), School of Medicine
- 2016 -- 2022: Chair, Department of Health Behavior and Policy, School of Medicine
- 2016 -- 2024: Inaugural Associate Director, Health Disparities; COE, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2018 -- 2024: Founding Director, Offices of Health Equity and Disparities Research; Office of Community Outreach and Engagement, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2016 -- 2020: Co-leader, Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Massey Cancer Center

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC (2002 -- 2016)

- 2013 -- 2016: Assistant Director, Health Disparities Research, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2012 -- 2016: Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Oncology, School of Medicine
- 2006 -- 2012: Assistant Professor (tenure track), Department of Oncology
- 2002 -- 2005: Assistant Research Professor, Department of Oncology

EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL, NORFOLK, VA (1996 -- 2002)

- 2001 -- 2002: Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA
- 1999 -- 2001: Instructor, Center for Pediatric Research, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA
- 1997 -- 1999: Postdoctoral Fellow, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA
- 1996 -- 1997: Senior Research Analyst, Center for Pediatric Research, Norfolk, VA

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES EXPERIENCE AND RELEVANT SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Sheppard's research and leadership portfolio is deeply aligned with contemporary pharmaceutical sciences, particularly at the interface of pharmacotherapy, cancer care delivery, patient-centered outcomes, and medication optimization. Across her career she has collaborated with schools of pharmacy, clinical pharmacists, and health sciences programs to advance research, education, and interprofessional training focused on optimizing medication use and improving therapeutic outcomes for patients with cancer and chronic conditions.

Pharmacotherapy, Toxicity, and Medication Decision-Making Research

A substantial portion of Dr. Sheppard's scholarship centers on treatment tolerance, toxicity, and clinical decision-making in oncology — core issues in pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice. Representative contributions include:

- Led and co-led studies using discrete-choice experiment (DCE) and best-worst scaling (BWS) methods to quantify how patients with metastatic breast cancer value efficacy, toxicity, and quality-of-life tradeoffs in chemotherapy decisions, including how chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) drives treatment discontinuation (Radwan et al., *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 2025; *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, 2025).
- Conducted collaborative research with oncologists and clinical pharmacists examining practice variation in chemotherapy-associated hyperglycemia management, including oncologists' responsibility, comfort, and knowledge in managing treatment-related metabolic complications and the thresholds used in clinical settings (Salgado et al., *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 2023; *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 2024).
- Led the Women's Hormonal Initiation and Persistence (WHIP) Study and related NCI-funded trials examining initiation, adherence, and discontinuation of adjuvant endocrine therapy (AET) in Black and White breast cancer survivors — a research program directly relevant to pharmaceutical care, medication adherence science, and patient-provider communication around pharmacotherapy (Sheppard et al., *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 2021; *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy*, 2019; *Clinical Breast Cancer*, 2018).
- Examined racial disparities in opioid prescription and pain management among breast cancer survivors, with direct implications for pharmacy practice and equitable pain pharmacotherapy (Kim et al., *Cancer Medicine*, 2023).
- Investigated cardioprotective medication use and cardiotoxicity disparities in breast cancer survivors receiving anthracyclines and trastuzumab, at the intersection of pharmacotherapy, cardio-oncology, and survivorship (Sutton et al., *JACC: CardioOncology*, 2022; *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, 2025).

Interprofessional Training and Pharmacy-Inclusive Research Infrastructure

- As Co-Investigator on a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) center at VCU (NCATS; \$7.4M), contributed to expanding the clinical trials and training enterprise, including oversight for interprofessional training programs integrating pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and public health faculty and trainees.

- Co-led an NCI T32 Training Program in Behavioral and Health Services Cancer Control Research (2018–2023; \$633,521), providing structured doctoral and postdoctoral training across disciplines with relevance to pharmaceutical sciences, including medication behavior, health services research, and clinical trial methodology.
- Mentored faculty across pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and public health — including VCU College of Pharmacy faculty (Dr. Vasco Pontinha, PharmD/MBA/MPharm; Dr. Theresa Salgado, PhD) — to develop research programs spanning pharmacotherapy, quality of care, health equity, and patient outcomes.
- Collaborated with VCU pharmacy faculty on multiple peer-reviewed publications and grant submissions examining medication management, patient preferences, and clinical pharmacist roles in oncology care.

Behavioral Pharmacotherapy and Digital Health Interventions

- Developed TALKBACK-DTx, a digital therapeutic (DTx) intervention designed to improve patient-provider communication and adherence to adjuvant endocrine therapy in breast cancer survivors — currently under NCI R34 development (PAR-25-104, planned submission June 2026). This intervention addresses medication persistence through behavioral science, health technology, and pharmacotherapy optimization.
- Led Sisters Informing Sisters™ (SIS), an NCI-funded, peer-coaching intervention reaching 80,000+ individuals and targeting adherence to breast cancer treatment — including pharmacotherapy — among Black women. The program has informed clinical guidelines and community-based pharmacy practice models.
- Conducted systematic and narrative reviews on behavioral interventions to enhance adherence to hormone therapy in breast cancer survivors, including an evaluation of digital health feedback systems and the role of digital pills (Hurtado-de-Mendoza & Sheppard et al., Clinical Breast Cancer, 2016; Health Technology, 2019).

Population Health, Community Pharmacy, and Workforce Relevance

- Designed and led community health education programs and multi-site navigation models across rural and urban Virginia that engaged pharmacy professionals and health science trainees in community-based cancer prevention and control — directly aligned with population-level pharmacy workforce priorities.
- Secured funding to support cancer patient navigation, transportation, and social determinants of health interventions across the VCU Massey catchment area — demonstrating translational experience linking pharmaceutical care access to broader community health infrastructure.
- Contributed to statewide cancer prevention policy (HPV vaccination, tobacco use surveillance, COVID-19 equity), areas in which pharmacists play a central workforce role in Florida's public health landscape.

Selected Collaborating Institutions and Partners in Pharmaceutical Sciences-Relevant Research

VCU School of Pharmacy — collaborative faculty mentorship, co-authored publications, joint grant development

C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CTSA) — co-investigator; interprofessional training oversight

Georgetown University Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center — training grant leadership; breast cancer pharmacotherapy research

Eastern Virginia Medical School — postdoctoral research; health services and medication outcomes

National Cancer Institute — multiple PI/MPI R01, R34, P20, NCORP awards spanning pharmacotherapy and cancer care delivery

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1. Public Health Leadership Award, VCU School of Public Health
2. Who's Who in America, Marquis (2024 -- 2025)
3. NCI Comprehensive Designation Award; Exceptional Rating, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center (2023)
4. Researcher of the Year, American Cancer Society (2023)
5. Feature: Richmond Magazine (June 2023)
6. Cover recognition and profile: Richmond Magazine April (2023)
7. Professional Achievement Award, VCU Women in Science, Dentistry and Medicine (2021)
8. Egretta Health Innovator Award, Association of Women Business Centers, Chicago, IL (2021)
9. Featured Recognition: AWBC Magazine (2021)
10. Featured Recognition: MCV Alumni Magazine 12th and Marshall (2021)
11. MCV Foundation; Health Disparities Recognition (2021)
12. AACR Science of Cancer Disparities Conference Travel Award (2020 -- 2021)
13. Distinguished Alumni College of Health Sciences, Old Dominion University (2016)
14. Endowment: Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control (2016)
15. Perseverance Award, First SDA Church, Washington, DC
16. Recognition in Commemorative Book, Association of American Medical Colleges (2014)
17. Healthcare Innovator Award, African Women's Cancer Awareness Association Inc. (2014)
18. Pink Lady Award, All Shades of Pink, Prince George's County, MD (2013)
19. R. Davilene Carter Presidential Prize for Best Manuscript, 1st Place, American Association for Cancer Education (2012)
20. Best Poster Award, 1st Place, American Association for Cancer Education (2012)
21. Outstanding Research Award, Georgetown University Medical Center (2011)
22. Medical Recognition Award for Sisters Informing Sisters™, Ready Academy, Norfolk, VA (2011)
23. Torchbearer Service Award, African Women's Cancer Awareness Association, Inc., Silver Spring, MD (2010)
24. Who's Who in America, Marquis (2005)
25. Essay Scholarship Award, Cancer, Culture and Literacy Institute (2004)
26. Health Disparities Scholar, National Institutes of Health (2003)
27. Recognition for Outstanding Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (2002)
28. Herbert W. Nickens, M.D., Faculty Achievement Award, Association of Medical Colleges (2001)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 1995 -- 1996: Senior Health Policy Analyst, Office of Health Policy Evaluation; Interim Director, Office of Health Planning, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, VA
 - 1994 -- 1995: Health Educator, Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, Portsmouth Health District
 - 1991 -- 1995: Graduate Research Assistant; College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Old Dominion University
 - 1990 -- 1991: Graduate Assistant; Healthcare Administration Certificate Program, Old Dominion University
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SOCIETY AND OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023 -- present: Association of Schools of Programs of Public Health
- 2022 -- present: The Alliance of Black COE Directors, Role: Founding Member
- 2021 -- present: American Heart Association, Role: Professional Member
- 2020 -- present: The Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, Role: Health Disparities Committee Vice-Chair
- 2011 -- present: American Association for Cancer Research, Role: Member
- 2003 -- 2020: American Association for Cancer Education, Role: Board Member
- 2003 -- 2020: Conference Planning Committee; Role: Recording Secretary
- 2003 -- present: American Society for Preventive Oncology, Role: Member
- 1999 -- 2000: National Association of Health Services Executives, Role: Member
- 1997 -- 2007: Academy Health, Role: Member, Access to Care Caucus
- 1997 -- present: American Public Health Association, Role: Section Member, Medical Care
- 1997 -- 2003: American Evaluation Association, Role: Member, Minority Topical Interest Group

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2024 -- present: Site Visitor; NCI CCSG
 - 2021 -- 2024: J of Cancer Survivorship; Role: Associate Editor
 - 2019 -- 2025: NCI Subcommittee F, NIH; Role: Grant Reviewer
 - 2016 -- 2023: American Association for Cancer Education; Role: Board Member, Secretary
 - 2019: Nursing Related Clinical Services, Study Section; NIH-NINR, Role: Permanent Member
 - 2017 -- 2018: Nursing and Related Clinical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel; NIH, Role: Reviewer
 - 2011 -- 2017: Cancer Control and Prevention; Psychosocial and Behavioral Committee, American Cancer Society; Role, Member of the Review Panel
 - 2010 -- 2011: Cancer Control and Prevention: Psychosocial and Behavioral Committee, American Cancer Society, Ad-hoc Reviewer
 - 2010: President Barack Obama's Breast Cancer in Young Women Committee, Center for Disease Control and Prevention; Role: Member of the Expert Panel
 - 2010: National Institute of Health, Health Disparities; Reviewer of the Special Emphasis Panel
 - 2010 -- present: Journal of Clinical Oncology, Role: Reviewer
 - 2009 -- present: Journal of Health Education Research; Role: Reviewer
 - 2008 -- present: Journal of Patient Education and Behavior; Role: Reviewer
 - 2008 -- present: Journal of Health Psychology; Role: Reviewer
 - 2008 -- 2009: CCDR Review Panel, Susan G. Komen for the Cure; Role: Reviewer
 - 2006 -- 2008: IDEA Award Review Panel (Clinical Health Sciences & Epidemiology) Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program; Role: Reviewer
 - 2005 -- present: Journal of Psycho-Oncology; Role: Reviewer
 - 2004 -- present: Journal of Race, Health and Policy; Role: Member of the Editorial Board
 - 2004 -- present: Journal of the National Medical Association; Role: Reviewer
 - 2004 -- present: Journal of Managed Care; Role: Reviewer
 - 2003 -- present: Healthy Start Program, Health Services Resources Administration, Grant Reviewer
 - 2002 -- present: Healthy Tomorrows Study Section, Health Resources Services Administration, Rockville, MD; Role: Grant Reviewer
 - 2002: Special Emphasis Panel - ZRGI MDCN-2 (05), National Institutes of Health, Cancer for Scientific Review Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health Program; Role: Reviewer
 - 2002: Title I Care Act Program, FY 2000, Congressional Black Caucus Initiative; Role: Grant Reviewer
 - 1999: Breast Cancer in Black Women, Edwin T. Johnson, MD; 2nd Edition, Van Slyke & Bray; Reviewer
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CONSULTATION AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- Case Western University Cancer Center, External Scientific Advisory Board
- Breast Cancer Disparities Consultant; Breast Cancer, Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network
- Co-chair External Advisory Board, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center T32 Training Program in Cancer Prevention and Control
- External Scientific Advisory Board; Fred & Pamela Buffet Cancer Center External Advisory Board
- Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center External Advisory Board
- Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center External Advisory Committee
- T32 Interdisciplinary Training in Cancer Prevention & Control External Advisory Board; Indiana University Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

ACTIVE GRANTS AND RECENTLY COMPLETED CONTRACTS

Improving Communication and Adherence in Black Breast Cancer Survivors

American Cancer Society, Inc.

2020 -- 2025

Role: Principal Investigator

\$1,536,730

VCU Minority/Underserved NCI Community Oncology Research Program

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2021 -- 2027

Role: MPI and Director, Cancer Care Delivery Research; MPIs: Khalid Matin (contact); Harry Bear

\$1,213,253

Lung Cancer Health Equity Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C)

2023 -- 2027

Role: Co-I; Site PI for Navigation Study; PIs: Winn and Ford

\$3,000,000

Help1RVA Navigation Model

YMCA of Greater Richmond

2024 -- 2025

Role: Principal Investigator

\$65,000

Immunity to Change (ITC): Advance IT VCU

National Science Foundation

2021 -- 2025

Role: Co-PI; Contact PI: Susan Kornstein

\$3,000,000

The Wright Regional Center for Clinical and Translational Science

NCATS

2023 -- 2030

Role: Co-Investigator

\$2,798,880

VSU-Massey Cancer Center Partnership for Cancer Disparities Research and Training (SUCCEED) — First NCI Cancer Center Resource-Limited Grant Solely Housed in Virginia

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2021 -- 2025

Role: MPI; Core-lead; MPI contact: Robert Winn

\$236,957 (VCU award) – VSU MPIs: Faison (contact) and Roberts

Testing a culturally targeted narrative video to reduce disparities in the use of genetic counseling and testing in Latina women at risk of HBOC

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2020 -- 2025

Role: Site PI; Co-I (Hurtado de Mendoza – PI)

\$1,000,000

TALKBACK-DTx: A Digital Therapeutic Intervention to Improve Treatment Adherence and Patient-Clinician Communication in Black Breast Cancer Survivors

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS (R34; PAR-25-104)

Submission: June 2026

Role: Principal Investigator

COMPLETED GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Translational Research Center in Lung Cancer Disparities (TRACER)

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2021 -- 2025

Role: Core Lead; Co-PI: Robert Winn

\$1,183,609

Unpacking the Multi-level Drivers of Cardiotoxicity Disparities in Breast Cancer Survivors

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2019 -- 2022

Role: Mentor and Sponsor: PI: Arnethea Sutton

\$113,867

Improving Uptake of Genetic Cancer Risk Assessment in African-American Women

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2019 -- 2021

Role: Principal Investigator

\$230,691

Promoting Physical Activity in African American Breast Cancer Survivors

Bank of America Health Award

2021

Role: PI

\$10,000

University of Kentucky; National Cancer Institute

2019 -- 2022

Role: Site PI

\$64,597

Understanding Cancer Survivorship in Rural Men: Perspectives from Black Americans

University of Kentucky

2020 -- 2021

Role: Mentor; PI: Michael Preston

\$10,762

A Mixed Methods Approach to Address Racial Disparities in Adherence to Surveillance Mammography Among Breast Cancer Survivors

University of Kentucky

2020 -- 2021

Role: Mentor; PI: Megan Edmonds

\$10,000

A Multi-level Mixed-methods Examination of Treatment Non-adherence among Rural Oncology Patients

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2019 -- 2021

Role: Mentor; PI: Bonny Morris

\$40,229

Training Program in Behavioral and Health Services Cancer Control Research

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2018 -- 2023

Role: Co-PD/PI

\$633,521

CTSA KL2 Institutional Career Development Core

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

2018 -- 2023

Role: Co-I; PI: Serge Nana-Sinkam

\$1,485,888

Center for Clinical & Translational Research

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

2018 -- 2023

Role: Co-I; PI: Frederick Moeller

\$7,427,173

Empowering Southern Virginia to Prevent, Control, and Treat Cancer

Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

2018 -- 2022

Role: PD/PI

\$1,130,000

Strengthening the Research, Training, and Outreach Capacity of the GMaP Program

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2017 -- 2022

Role: Site PI; PI: Mark Evers

\$249,000

Enhancing at-risk Latina Women's Use of Genetic Counseling for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer: Using Mental Models to Develop Culturally Targeted Media

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2016 -- 2018

Role: MPI; Co-PI: Alejandra Hurtado de Mendoza

\$100,000

SUB 1 Exercise RCT Targeting African American Women with Metabolic Syndrome & HIG

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2016 -- 2017

Role: Principal Investigator

\$235,500

Latina Breast Cancer Survivors and Caregivers

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

2013 -- 2016

Role: Co-Investigator

\$578,544

Center for Excellence for Health Disparities in the Nation's Capital

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2012 -- 2017

Role: Co-I; PI: Lucile Adams-Campbell

\$993,485

A Community-Academic Partnership to Facilitate Cancer Center Control Research in African born Women

Center for Clinical and Translational Science Community Partnership

2012 -- 2013

Role: Principal Investigator

\$10,000

Predictors of Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy Adherence in Women with Breast Cancer

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2011 -- 2017

Role: Principal Investigator

\$2,665,756

Center for Clinical and Translational Science Community Partnership

NIH - National Center for Research Resources

2010 -- 2015

Role: Co-Investigator

\$10,000

Improving Diet and Exercise Behaviors in Black Breast Cancer Survivors

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2010 -- 2012

Role: Principal Investigator

\$200,318

DC Screen for Life: Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening Among Uninsured & Underinsured DC Residents

DC Cancer Consortium

2010

Role: Co-Investigator

\$885,000

Validation of PROMIS in Diverse Cancer Populations

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2009 -- 2013

Role: Co-Investigator

\$1,029,754

Parent Communication of *BRCA* 1/2 Test Results to Children - Supplement

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2009 -- 2012

Role: Co-Investigator

\$225,000

Who Cares for Older Breast Cancer Survivors and Does it Matter to Quality?

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2008 -- 2013

Role: Co-Investigator

\$616,079

Training Survivors to Coach Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Patients

DC Cancer Consortium

2008 -- 2009

Role: Principal Investigator

\$35,000

Understanding Motivators and Barriers to African American Women's Willingness and Interest in Genetic Counseling and Testing

Jess and Mildred Fisher Center for Familial Cancer

2008 -- 2009

Role: Principal Investigator

\$20,000

Examining Non-Adherence to Mammography Appointments in Underserved Minority Women, U56 Pilot Award

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2008

Role: Principal Investigator

\$60,000

Narrowing the Gap in Breast Adjuvant Therapy for African American Women with Breast Cancer

American Cancer Society

2006 -- 2011

Role: Principal Investigator

\$729,000

Narrowing the Gap in Breast Adjuvant Therapy for African American Women

Susan G. Komen

2006 -- 2008

Role: Principal Investigator

\$250,000

Exergaming Intervention and Breast Cancer Biomarkers in Black Women

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

Role: Co-Investigator

\$144,815

A Comprehensive Culturally and Linguistically Peer Approach to Navigating the DC Breast Health System

Susan G. Komen Foundation

2006

Role: Principal Investigator

\$65,217

Marketing Cancer Research to Improve Cancer Outcomes Among Latinos

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2005 -- 2010

Role: Co-Investigator

\$800,000

A Navigator Delivered Skills Intervention to Improve Communication and Decision-making among African American Breast Cancer Patients

Susan G. Komen Foundation

2005 -- 2007

Role: Principal Investigator

\$250,000

Navigating Latina's through Breast Cancer Treatment Decisions (Latina a Latina)

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2004 -- 2005

Role: Principal Investigator

\$50,000

Minority Investigator Supplement, Understanding Black Women's Chemotherapy Decisions. Chemotherapy Decisions Among the Elderly Study, CALGB

National Institute of Aging

2003 -- 2006

Role: Principal Investigator

\$128,659

Marketing Cancer Control to Latin Americans

National Cancer Institute/NIH/DHHS

2002 -- 2005

Role: Co-Investigator

\$2,779,259

OTHER AWARDS AND CONTRACTS

1. Jenkins Foundation; \$50,000 (PI); 2022
2. Nunally Foundation; \$50,000 (PI); 2021
3. August Heid Trust; \$50,000 (PI); 2022
4. Shelton Hardaway Short, Jr. Trust, \$25,000 (PI)
5. AAMC Research Award, \$15,000; Sheppard (Awardee); 2000
6. Information and Referral Agency; Analysis of 411 Service Needs of Virginia Call Centers; \$50,000 (PI); 1999
7. Health Resources Services Administration, Loving Steps Evaluation; \$200,000; 1998 -- 2001

TEACHING

- 2012 -- 2013: Cancer Education, Outreach, and Field Study, BIOL 580 21589
- 2010 -- 2011: Principles and Practice of Behavioral Science in Cancer Control, TBIO 532
- 2008 -- 2011: Cancer Prevention, Control, and Epidemiology, TBIO 520
- 2010 -- 2012: Evidence-Based Medicine II
- 2011 -- 2012: Evidence-Based Medicine I
- 2000 -- 2002: Health Services Epidemiology; MPH Program, Eastern Virginia Medical School

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Current Faculty Mentees:

Christin Haynes, PhD

Assistant Professor
Virginia State University
Role: Research Mentor

Larry Keen, PhD

Associate Professor
Virginia State University
Role: Research Mentor on NCI P20

Sunny Kim, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University
Assistant Professor
Role: Mentor

Alex Lucas, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University
Assistant Professor
Role: Co-Mentor on Training Grant

Vasco Pontinha, PhD, MBA, MPharm

Associate Professor
Virginia Commonwealth University
Role: Research Mentor on ACS IRG

Theresa Salgado, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University
Assistant Professor
Role: Mentor on ESI Grants

Student and Postdoctoral Trainees:

Malik Phillips

Virginia Commonwealth University
Degree Program: PhD-SBS
Role: Primary Mentor
6/2022 -- Present

Fariha Tariq, MPH

Virginia Commonwealth University
Degree Program: PhD-SBS

Role: Primary Mentor
6/2021 – Present – Defended dissertation March 2026

Dustin Bastiach, MS

Virginia Commonwealth University

Role: Secondary Mentor

2021 -- Present

Asmaa Namoos, MD, MPH

Virginia Commonwealth University

Degree Program: PhD-SBS

Role: Advisor

11/2020 -- 12/2023

Arnethea Sutton, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Cancer Prevention and Control

Role: Primary Mentor; current collaborator

2017 -- 2023 (includes fellowship period and K99/00)

Esther Holmes, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Cancer Prevention and Control

Role: Primary Mentor

02/2021 -- 06/2021

Megan Edmonds, PhD, MPH

Virginia Commonwealth University

Degree Program: PhD-SBS

Role: Advisor

08/2017 -- 05/2021

Bonny Morris, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Degree Program: PhD-SBS

Role: Committee Member

07/2019 -- 05/2021

Alejandra Hurtado-de-Mendoza

Georgetown University

Post-doctoral Fellowship, early-stage faculty

Role: Primary Mentor; current collaborator

2012 -- 2020

Alesha Henderson, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Degree Program: PhD-SBS

Role: Committee Member

01/2019 -- 12/2020

Reuben Retnam

Virginia Commonwealth University

Degree Program: PhD-Biostats

Role: Secondary Mentor

2016 -- 2019

Jun He, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Degree Program: PhD-Biostats

Role: Secondary Mentor

2016 -- 2019

Jessica Chavis

Virginia Commonwealth University
Undergraduate Student
Role: Preceptor, Mentor Biology of Cancer II
2016 -- 2019

Justin Thomas

Virginia Commonwealth University
Undergraduate Student
Role: Preceptor, Mentor Biology of Cancer II
2016 -- 2019

Erin Tanner, MS

Virginia Commonwealth University
Degree Program: MS-GCO
Role: Mentor; Committee Member
01/2018 -- 05/2018

Kenneth Acheampong, MD

Virginia Commonwealth University
Postdoctoral Fellow, Cancer Prevention and Control
Role: Primary Mentor
2017 -- 2018

Asma Dilawari, MD, Oncologist

Georgetown University
Role: Secondary Mentor
2014 -- 2016

Mark Cabling

Georgetown University
Master's Student
Role: Secondary Mentor
2014 -- 2015

Minna Song

Georgetown University
Undergraduate Student
Role: Secondary Mentor
2011 -- 2013

Toddchelle Young

Georgetown University
Undergraduate Student
Role: Secondary Mentor
2012

Juleen Christopher

Virginia Technology Institute
Pre-Doctoral Student
Doctoral Program in Health Education/Health Promotion
Role: Primary mentor; intern and pre-doctoral student
2005 -- 2009
Accomplishments: Received PhD 2010, Postdoctoral fellowship 2010

Laricca London

Graduate Student
Cancer Biology Prevention and Control of District of Columbia - Georgetown University Program
Internship Preceptor; Thesis Chair
Accomplishments: Thesis: Understanding Latinas' Willingness to Participate in Cancer Clinical Trials:
A Correlational Study. Received MS May 2009

Jasmine Turner

Undergraduate Student
Pennsylvania State University
Role: Preceptor, Public Health Internship
Accomplishments: Received BS May 2008

Rebecca Johnson

Doctoral Student
Role: Dissertation Committee, External member
Accomplishments: Received PhD May 2007. Dissertation: Psychological Distress and Alcohol Use and/or Smoking among Cancer Survivors

Mariano Kanamori

Graduate Student
Georgetown University, Communication, Culture and Technology
Role: Summer Internship Preceptor
Accomplishments: Master of Arts Degree, 2003

Inez Adams

Doctoral Student/Candidate
Michigan State University
Role: Mentorship for research/intervention methods in cancer control
Accomplishments: PhD December 2011; Postdoc: Health Disparities, Harvard University

SELECTED INVITED PANEL AND KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS**Word Cancer Congress, Athens Greece, 2026**

Amplifying Patient Voices to Transform Survivor Science: Centering Quality of Life in a Global Context

Moffit Comprehensive Cancer Center

Keynote Speaker, COE Health Disparities Grand Rounds, April 2026

American Cancer Society

Executive Breakfast Keynote Speaker, Glen Allen, VA
March 2026

Spiritual Care and Psychosocial Concerns in Patients: Opportunities and Challenges: What Can We Do Better?

Closing the Gap: Coping with Cancer Summit
July 2025

The Sisters Informing Sisters™ Trial: Rationale, Intervention, and Implementation

American Society of Preventive Oncology Annual Meeting
April 2025

Cancer Care Delivery Research, Help Us - Help You: Working Together to Impact Care

VCU MU-NCORP Cancer Symposium
March 2025

Clinical Trials Tools for Health, Healing, and Hope

University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center
March 2025

Cancer Disparities Symposium; Keynote Speaker

Case Western Reserve University
March 2025

Empowering Our Queens: Breast Health and Cancer Awareness

Virginia State University Crown HER Empowerment Program
October 2024

Resilient and Informed: A Public Health Approach to Breast Cancer Awareness

12th Anniversary of the Founding of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund
September 2024

Advancing Health Equity Through Public Health Trustworthiness

Virginia Commonwealth University, College of Engineering Pharma Day

September 2024

Minority Underserved Initiatives Update

MU/NCORP Executive Committee

September 2024

Getting to the Good Part: Finding Your Purpose, Passion, and Place in Cancer Research

Howard University Cancer Center

March 2024

Population Health in the Era of AI and Fake News: Does Health Equity Have a Fighting Chance?

Eastern Virginia Medical School

March 2024

Establishing Public and Private Collaborations Across the Nation

NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

September 2023

Achieving Health Equity for African American Women

Dartmouth-Hitchcock: Norris Cotton Cancer Center

January 2022

Engaging Racial and Ethnic Minority Women in Clinical Trials and Biospecimen donation: Keeping it Simple, Strategic, and Sincere

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

December 2021

If Not Now Then When: Engaging Diverse Communities in Clinical Trials

American Association for Cancer Research

October 2021

Enhancing Diversity in Clinical Trials: Challenges and Opportunities

Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology

May 2021

Improving the Participation of Minority and Underserved Populations in Cancer Clinical Trials

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

March 2021

Sisters Informing Sisters™ to Eliminate Cancer Disparities: Facts, Faith and Fearlessness

University of Rochester

October 2020

Role of Adherence in Breast Cancer Treatment and Survivorship: Are we Missing Opportunities to Reduce Disparities?

2nd NCI Symposium on Cancer Health Disparities, Bethesda, MD

October 2018

Engaging Underrepresented Minorities in Cancer Research: Opportunities and Strategies

AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

October 2017

Optimizing Patient Encounters to Reduce Disparities: Designing Cancer Interventions for Diverse Populations

International Cancer Education

October 2015

Adherence to Adjuvant Therapy

San Antonio Breast Symposium

December 2015

Narrowing Gaps in Breast Adjuvant Therapy: Recruitment Collaboration with the army of Women, A Program of the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation

Avon Army of Women

February 2012

Sisters Informing Sisters® Intervention Care Research, Invited Speaker

Centers for Disease Control

September 2011

Recruiting Minority Women in Breast Care Research, Invited Speaker

University of Notre Dame, Maryland

May 2011

The Survivorship Lens: Opportunities to Reduce Breast Cancer Disparities; Invited Speaker

American Psychosocial Society

2011

Breast Cancer in African-American Women

Cancer Care Connect Education Workshop

April 2010

Making the Connections: Recruiting Minority Women in Breast Cancer Research

American Association of Cancer Research, Miami, FL

2010

Black Women's Health Imperative

Breast Cancer Summit, Washington, DC

2009

A Time for Hope: Breast Cancer in African-American Women

United States Congressional Black Caucus

October 2008

Developing a Breast Cancer Decision Support Intervention for Latinas

American Association for Cancer Research

Scientific Symposium: Interventions to Address Cancer Disparities

April 2006

Invited Session Chair, The Road Less Traveled: Can the Appropriate Consumption of Health Care Reduce Disparities?

Academy Health Research Meeting

2005

Latinas Perceptions of Cancer and US Healthcare: Implications for Cancer

9th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, The Medically Underserved and Cancer

Washington, DC

2005

Invited Speaker, Priorities for Social Support among Low-income Families

Family Support America National Meeting, Chicago, IL

2004

Invited Speaker, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Low Birth Weight

Prenatal Jeopardy Conference, Norfolk, VA

Perinatal Council

2002

Minority Health Issues for Women and Children in Hampton Roads

Minority Health Consortium of Hampton Roads Winter Symposium, Norfolk, VA

2001

Racial and Ethnic Issues in Maternal and Child Health

Center for Pediatric Research, 2000

EXEMPLAR SERVICE ACTIVITIES

SELECTED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 2021 -- 2024: Executive Board Member, African Women's Cancer Awareness Association

- 2020 -- 2021: Community Service Committee; Chair, By-law Committee, Jack and Jill of America, Co-Chair
- 2019 -- present: Board Member, Ephesus Junior Academy School Board Member
- 2010 -- 2013: Tigerlily Foundation, Board Member
- 2010 -- 2011: Black Women's Health Imperative

PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019 -- present: Vice-Chair, Disparities Committee, Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, Inc.
- 2019 -- present: NCI F Study Section
- 2019: Co-chair, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Search Committee
- 2020: Peer Review Committee, School of Nursing Promotion and Tenure, Teresa Swift-Scanlan, PhD, Role: Member
- 2018 -- 2020: Health Equity Task Force, Role: Member
- 2018: Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program
- 2018 -- present: Advance Professional Development Committee, Role: Co-Chair
- 2018 -- present: Operations Committee, C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Role: Member
- 2018 -- 2023: KL2 Oversight Committee, C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Role: Member
- 2018 -- present: Advance Steering Committee, Role: Member
- 2018: VP for Research and Innovation Search Committee, Role: Member
- 2018: Department of Psychiatry Chair Search Committee, Role: Member
- 2018: Search Committee: Dean of the College of Health Professions, Role: Member
- 2017 -- 2020: Health Equity and Disparities Research Workgroup, Massey Cancer Center, Role: Committee Chair
- 2017 -- present: Executive Committee, Massey Cancer Center, Role: Member
- 2017 -- present: Executive Committee, School of Medicine, Role: Member
- 2017 -- 2022: MD-PhD Steering Committee, Role: Member
- 2017 -- 2022: Executive Committee, Health Behavior and Policy, Role: Committee Chair
- 2011 -- 2016: Cancer Control and Prevention: Psychosocial and Behavioral Committee American Cancer Society, Role: Study Section Member
- 2011: President Barack Obama's Breast Cancer in Young Women Committee, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Role: Member, Expert Panel
- 2010: Cancer Control and Prevention: Psychosocial and Behavioral Committee, American Cancer Society, Role: Ad-hoc Reviewer
- 2008 -- 2009: Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Role: Reviewer, CCDCR Review Panel

PUBLICATIONS

1. Kim, S. J., Motto, F. M., Ming, H., Clark, V., Hong, S., Lichtman, A. H., & Sheppard, V.B. (in press). Perspectives on cannabis use among cancer survivors and cancer care providers: Parallel surveys. *Journal of Cancer Education*.
2. Motto, F.M., Edwards, E., Hong, S., **Sheppard, V. B.**, & Kim, S. J. (accept). Relationship between Patient-Provider Communication about Cannabis and Online Information-Seeking and Healthcare Outcomes among Cancer Survivors. *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*.
3. Taylor, T. R., Kaur, A., Tariq, F., Bastaich, D., Hurtado-de-Mendoza, A., Kumar, A., & **Sheppard, V. B.** (2026). The role of patient-provider communication, patient satisfaction, and self-efficacy on health-related quality of life in hormone receptor-positive breast cancer survivors. *Journal of psychosocial oncology*, 1–17. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07347332.2026.2626387>
4. Radwan, R. M., Bridges, J. F. P., Hertz, D. L., Lustberg, M. B., Vachhani, H., Hickey Zacholski, E., **Sheppard, V. B.**, & Salgado, T. M. (2025). Factors influencing the decision to discontinue treatment due to chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy among patients with metastatic

breast cancer: a best-worst scaling. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 33(6), 467.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-025-09508-4>

5. Radwan, R. M., Schuster, A. L. R., Hertz, D. L., Lustberg, M. B., Vachhani, H. R., Hickey Zacholski, E., **Sheppard, V. B.**, Bridges, J. F. P., & Salgado, T. M. (2025). Tolerance for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy among women with metastatic breast cancer: a discrete-choice experiment. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, 212(1), 149--159. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-025-07715-5>
6. Williams, A. R., Wilson-Genderson, M., Naavaal, S., **Sheppard, V.B.**, & Thomson, M. D. (2025). Disparities in Dental Visits Among Participants of the Virginia Living Well Registry. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*, 53(5), 598--605. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdoe.70010>
7. Sutton, A. L., Zhao, J., He, J., Tossas, K. Y., Bottinor, W., & Sheppard, V. B. (2025). Examining factors associated with experiencing cardiac arrhythmias in Black and White breast cancer survivors who received anthracyclines or trastuzumab. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, 211(2), 537--544. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-025-07671-0>
8. Valencia-Rojas, N., Schifano, K., Salehian, S., Kim, B., Thomson, M. D., & Sheppard, V. B. (2025). Empowering Latino communities through the colorectal health research champions model: Enhancing colorectal cancer awareness and screening advocacy. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-025-01829-0>
9. Gómez-Trillos, S., Carrera, P., Caballero, A., Sheppard, V. B., Graves, K. D., Peshkin, B. N., Schwartz, M. D., Campos, C., Garcés, N., & Hurtado de Mendoza, A. (2025). "How did that make you feel?" Latinas' use of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer risk after watching a culturally targeted video and receiving patient navigation. *Psycho-Oncology*, 34(9), Article e70261. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.70261>
10. Ortega, B., Huq, M. R., Sedeño-Delgado, D., Barajas, C., Gómez-Trillos, S., Curran, G., Graves, K. D., Sheppard, V. B., Schwartz, M. D., Peshkin, B. N., Campos, C., Valencia-Rojas, N., Hernández, G., Garces, N., Dash, C., O'Neill, S., Logie, L. A., Jimenez, A., Mills, M., Roig, B. V., Villa, A., Alvarado, K., Cupertino, P., Carrera, P., & Hurtado-de-Mendoza, A. (2025). Barriers and facilitators of cancer genetic risk screening at community-based organizations serving Latinas. *Journal of Community Genetics*, 17(1), 16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12687-025-00839-7>
11. Lucas, A. R., Bastiach, D., Dahman, B., Paul, A. K., Hirani, S., **Sheppard, V. B.**, Hundley, W. G., Patel, B. B., Bitting, R. L., & Chang, M. G. (2025). Major adverse cardiovascular events among Black and White Veterans receiving androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer: A retrospective cohort study. *Cardiooncology*, 11(1), 12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40959-025-00312-x>
12. Sutton, A. L., O'Connell, N. S., Lucas, A. R., Olson, K. C., Reding, K. W., **Sheppard, V. B.**, Ky, B., Ruddy, K. J., Weaver, K. E., & Hundley, W. G. (2025). Socioeconomic status and left ventricular ejection fraction decline in breast cancer survivors following receipt of doxorubicin (PREVENT WF-98213). *Cardiooncology*, 11(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40959-025-00311-y>
13. Kim, S. J., Clark, V., Hancock, J. T., Rawassizadeh, R., Liu, H., Taylor, E. A., & **Sheppard, V. B.** (2025). Leveraging artificial intelligence-mediated communication for cancer prevention and control and drug addiction: A systematic review. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 15(1), ibaf007. <https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibaf007>
14. Tariq, F., Lucas, A. R., Hill, S., Philips, M., & **Sheppard, V. B.** (2024). The lived experiences and unmet needs of prostate and colorectal male cancer survivors in rural Virginia: A qualitative study. *Journal of Rural Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jrh.12897>

15. Wojcik, K. M., Wilson, O. W. A., Shiels, M. S., **Sheppard, V. B.**, & Jayasekera, J. (2024). Racial, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Disparities in Meeting Physical Activity Guidelines among Female Breast Cancer Survivors in the United States. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 33(12), 1610--1622. <https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-24-0650>
16. Thomson, M. D., Shahab, G. H., Cooper-McGill, C. A., **Sheppard, V. B.**, Hill, S. S., Preston, M., & Keen II, L. (2024). Increasing colorectal cancer screening among Black men in Virginia: Development of an mHealth intervention. *JMIR Formative Research*, 8, e50028. <https://doi.org/10.2196/50028>
17. **Sheppard, V. B.**, Tariq, F., Bastiach, D., Philips, M., Winn, R., Edmonds, M. C., & Thompson, H. S. (2024). Trust in Black and White breast cancer patients: Opportunities to enhance trustworthiness in cancer care. *Clinical Breast Cancer*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clbc.2024.08.019>
18. Thompson HS, Ashing KT, Barrett NJ, Baskin ML, Carter-Bawa L, Nolan TS, Odedina FT, Rhoads KF, **Sheppard V.B.**, Zeigler-Johnson C. (2024). The state of cancer-focused community outreach and engagement (COE): reflections of Black COE directors. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 116(10), 1549--1554. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djae138>
19. Salgado, T. M., Birari, P. B., Alshahawey, M., Hickey Zacholski, E., Mackler, E., Buffington, T. M., Musselman, K. T., Irvin, W. J. Jr., Perkins, J. M., Le, T. N., Dixon, D. L., Farris, K. B., **Sheppard, V. B.**, & Jones, R. M. (2024). Optimal hyperglycemia thresholds in patients undergoing chemotherapy: A cross-sectional study of oncologists' practices. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 32(8), 563. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-024-08756-0>
20. Reding, K. W., Szewczyk, W., D'Agostino, R. B. Jr., O'Connell, N. S., Vasbinder, A., Bellissimo, M. P., Lucas, A. R., **Sheppard, V. B.**, Sutton, A. L., Ky, B., Lesser, G. J., & Hundley, W. G. (2024). Black-White disparities in submaximal exercise capacity reductions in breast cancer survivors: A prospective cohort study. *JACC: CardioOncology*, 6(3), 467--469. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaccao.2024.05.003>
21. **Sheppard, V. B.**, Sutton, A. L., Salehian, S., Hines, A. L., Williams, K. P., Edmonds, M. C., Brewer, A., Wright, M. S., & Guha, A. (2024). Community engagement to advance equitable cardio-oncology care: A call to action. *JACC: CardioOncology*, 6(3), 381--385. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaccao.2024.05.002>
22. Miller, C. A., Guidry, J. P. D., Perrin, P. B., Carlyle, K. E., **Sheppard, V. B.**, & Fuemmeler, B. F. (2024). Adding COVID to cancer: Does cancer status influence COVID-19 infection preventive behaviors? *Journal of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene*, 65(1), E4--E10. <https://doi.org/10.15167/2421-4248/jpmh2024.65.1.2888>
23. Arezo, S., Naavaal, S., Garrett, C., Wright, M. S., **Sheppard, V. B.**, & Preston, M. A. (2024). Implementation of a cancer education program in rural counties with the lowest HPV vaccination rates and health rankings. *Journal of Health Research*, 38(1), 88--93. <https://doi.org/10.56808/2586-940X.1057>
24. Namoos, A., **Sheppard, V. B.**, Abosamak, N., Lavallee, M., Ramadan, R., Eyob, E., Wang, C., & Gal, T. (2024). Changes in obesity and diabetes severity during the COVID-19 pandemic at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2022.22>
25. Preston, M.A., Cadet, D., Hunley, R., **Sheppard, V. B.**, et al. (2023). Health Equity and Colorectal Cancer Awareness: a Community Health Educator Initiative. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 38, 225--230. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-021-02102-2>
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BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS, MONOGRAPHS

1. Tossas, K.Y., Sutton, A.L., Thomson, M.D., Mosavel, M., LaRose, J., Prom-Wormley, E., Robertson, T., **Sheppard, V.B.**, Haynes, R., Gray, F.T., Winn, R.A. (2024) Facts and Faith Fridays: An example of faith community and cancer center's revival against COVID-19 misinformation. In: Kingori C and Nicks S (Eds.), *COVID-19 and Public Health: Global Responses to the Pandemic*.
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4. Turner J, Cabling M, Hurtado-de-Mendoza A, **Sheppard V.B.** (2018). The curious nature of support in online support communities. *Communication and Social Media: Case Studies in Personal and Professional Relationships*. Oxford University Press.

EXEMPLAR MEDIA RECOGNITION

2025 VCU Blogs Moving Forward Together: Women's History Month 2025 – Dr. Vanessa Sheppard

<https://blogs.vcu.edu/sbs/2025/03/27/moving-forward-together-womens-history-month-2025-dr-vanessa-sheppard/>

2023 VCU News -- *An interview with Vanessa B. Sheppard, founding interim dean of the School of Population Health*

<https://news.vcu.edu/article/2023/04/vanessa-b-sheppard-as-the-founding-interim-dean-of-the-school-of-population-health>

2023 Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center News Center -- *Vanessa B. Sheppard, PhD, honored as American Cancer Society's Researcher of the Year*

<https://www.masseycancercenter.org/news/vanessa-b-sheppard-phd-honored>

2023 VCU Health News Center -- *VCU Health inequities researcher uses her hard-earned influence to support others*

<https://www.vcuhealth.org/news/vcu-health-inequities-researcher-uses-her-hard-earned-influence-to-support-others>

2023 ABC 8 News -- *VCU cancer researcher, Vanessa B. Sheppard, named American Cancer Society's Researcher of the Year*

<https://www.wric.com/community/positively-richmond/vcu-cancer-researcher-vanessa-b-sheppard-named-american-cancer-societys-researcher-of-the-year/>

2021 National Cancer Institute -- *Don't Just Talk to Patients, Listen to Them!*

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNIHNCI/bulletins/2e50ba7?reqfrom=share>

2021 New York Magazine -- *4 Minutes with Jill Biden Grieving with the First Family*

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/jill-biden-encounter.html>

2021 Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center News Center -- *Sheppard receives Professional Achievement Award from VCU School of Medicine*

<https://www.masseycancercenter.org/news/sheppard-receives-professional-achievement-award-from-vcu-school-of-medicine/>

2021 YouTube -- *Celebrating Henrietta Lacks: Building Trust -- The Path Forward*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9yV6feexzk>

2020 WTVR/CBS 6 News -- *Virtual Breast Health Equity*

<https://www.wtvr.com/on-air/virginia-this-morning/virtual-breast-health-equity>

2012 Georgetown University Medical Center -- *Vanessa B. Sheppard: Righting a Deadly Imbalance*

<https://gumc.georgetown.edu/gumc-stories/righting-a-deadly-imbalance/>

2009 NPR -- *For Black Women, Breast Cancer Strikes Younger*

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120985060>