

Meharry Community Engagement Core Newsletter

The Meharry Community Engagement Core connects community members and organizations with Meharry researchers to conduct research and share results that will improve health for communities that experience the poorest health outcomes

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Mothers of Gynecology



Photo: www.smarthistory.org

The idea for the “Mothers of Gynecology” monument began with Michelle Browder. Browder is an activist and artist, who runs a civil rights tour company, “More Than Tours” in Montgomery, AL.

Browder learned of J. Marion Sims, the so-called “Father of Gynecology” as a student at the Art Institute of Atlanta. While conducting tours, she encounters his statue over and over again. Sims’ statue is on the lawn of the Alabama State House. Despite recent protests and statues being removed in other cities, Sims is not going anywhere. In 2017, Governor Kay Ivey signed legislation barring monuments from being removed if they’ve been on public property for more than 40 years—Sims’ statue had been on the lawn since 1939.

Using her talents as an artist, Browder’s response to the heroic narrative of Sims, was to create a monument that celebrates the contributions of Black women to gynecological research. “The Mothers of Gynecology”, immortalizes the contributions of three enslaved women: Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey. They are three of the eleven enslaved women who were unwilling subjects of Sims’ experimentation in the 1840s. Their statues are near the Equal Justice Initiative’s National Memorial Park for Peace and Justice, the Westcott Plantation, where Anarcha was enslaved, and Sims’ first hospital built in 1840.

Our Vision

To eradicate health and healthcare disparities through long-term collaborative, mutually beneficial community-research partnerships.

Core Partnership Volunteer Links

The [Meharry Research Partners Database](#) is used to recruit study participants for Meharry Researchers.

The [Meharry Community Engagement Core Partners Database](#) is used to connect community members and community-based organizations (CBOs) with research opportunities at Meharry.

Call for Contributions

Do you want to be featured in our next issue? Well if so, just email us for more details. We are interested in your announcements and short stories of success, recognition, and anything else you’d like to share with the Middle Tennessee community.

The monument is the first phase of three phases of the More Up Campus developed by Browder to teach about the history of Montgomery. More information about the artist, the statues, and the More Up Campus can be found [here](#).

Connect With Us

- meharryresearchconnect.org
- community@mmc.edu
- 615.327.5807

National Cancer Research Month Feature

Maureen Sanderson, MPH, RD, PhD, is a cancer researcher, at Meharry Medical College, who specializes in women’s health. Her interest in cancer research started with her own family history of breast cancer. “Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. and African Americans have a much higher risk of certain cancers compared to other races and ethnicities,” Sanderson said when discussing why cancer research is necessary.



Photo: Maureen Sanderson

She goes on to say she believes part of the reason that these cancer disparities exist is due to the lack of representation of African Americans in research studies.

Among the most important things she’s found in her research include the increased risk of a breast cancer diagnosis associated with diabetes. She notes the differences seen in risk profiles may help to determine the biological mechanisms that link diabetes with cancer.

When it comes to breast cancer research Dr. Sanderson and her team have recruited over 1500 African American women with breast cancer in Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina.

In a recent publication, Dr. Sanderson and her team confirmed other studies reports that women with multiple children who breastfed and have undergone menopause were less likely to be diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, a more aggressive form of breast cancer. Based on multiple studies, Dr. Sanderson has concluded that breastfeeding is not only good for the short-term health of the mother and infant but also impacts the long-term health of the mother.

2022 Meharry Graduate Highlight



Photo: Ashlei Brooks

The MCEC would like to congratulate our work study student, Ashlei Brooks. She received her MPH during the 147th Commencement on May 21, 2022. During her time as a student, she served as the Parliamentarian of the Division of Public Health Practice Student Association, completed her externship with the Nashville Strong Babies Program at the Metro Public Health Department, was a Greenwall Foundation scholar, and was on the Dean's List throughout her matriculation.

Congratulations Ashlei and all 2022 graduates!

COVID-19 Booster Shot



Photo: Stock Image

The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available for booster shots in eligible populations! Click [here](#) to find vaccine sites near you and schedule an appointment. Remember to wear a mask, socially distance, before and after you get boosted.

COVID-19 Home Testing



Photo: www.cdc.gov

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a 3rd round of the free at-home tests. They are free and will be delivered through the United States Postal Service. [Click here](#) to order your tests and find out more information about eligibility for your health insurance company to cover the cost for 8 at-home tests per month for each person on the plan.

Online COVID-19 Resources

Meharry Medical College: <https://home.mmc.edu/covid-19-info/>

Meharry Medical College COVID-19 Trials: <https://home.mmc.edu/covid-19-overview/>

Meharry Medical College Vaccine Appointment: <https://home.mmc.edu/getting-the-vaccine/>

Metro Health Department: <https://www.nashville.gov/HealthDepartment.aspx>

TN Community Engaged Alliance Against COVID-19 (TNCEAL): <https://www.tnceal.org/>

TN Department of Health COVID-19 Testing Sites: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/remote-assessment-sites.html>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Meharry In The News

Meharry Medical Students given opportunities to join NFL medical staff new initiative

By Kenya Anderson, Tennessean

Meharry Medical College students will have the opportunity to work with NFL teams to gain hands-on experience starting this fall.

The NFL announced the NFL Diversity in Sports Medicine Pipeline on Tuesday to increase diversity within the organization by partnering with 19 students who are specializing in primary care or orthopedic surgery at four medical Historically Black Colleges and Universities:

- Meharry Medical College in Nashville
- Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta
- Howard University College of Medicine in Washington
- Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles

Students will spend a month in the fall with one of eight NFL teams: the Titans, Falcons, Bengals, Chargers, Rams, Giants, 49ers and Commanders.

Students have the opportunity to shadow a medical team including primary care physicians, orthopedic specialists, nutritionist, behavior therapist and athletic trainers. They will learn firsthand about caring for players during the season in locker rooms and at practice and games.