

T32 TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Safiyyah M. Okoye, PhD

Get to know T32 post-doctoral fellow [Safiyyah M. Okoye, PhD](#), who worked in primary care as a family nurse practitioner and earned her PhD at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.



Tell us a little bit about your research. How does it contribute to the overall goal of the Lipitz Center?

I study how socioeconomic and built environmental factors contribute to older adult health, function, and disability, with an interest in how these factors contribute to inequities among low-income older adults and Black older adults. My research contributes to the Lipitz Center's goals to contribute to evidence-informed health policy to benefit the lives of persons with disabilities and

complex health needs.

Share a current project you are working on and any early findings or impacts?

I am working on two projects related to housing conditions of low and moderate-income older adults. For both, I am using the National Health and Aging Trends Study. In one project I have identified predictors of housing disrepair. In the other, I am determining whether housing disrepair is associated with adverse effects of unmet self-care needs among low and moderate-income older adults with disabilities. These studies have the potential to inform the design of interventions to address housing disrepair. For community-living older adults with disabilities, housing is the setting for the delivery of long-term services and is therefore relevant to persons, families, and long-term care policies.

What have you learned so far from being a part of the Lipitz Center?

I have learned an immense amount about long-term services and supports and its many dimensions, including family and unpaid care work and Medicaid payment for LTSS. This is an area in which interdisciplinary work is essential and the Lipitz Center is an excellent forum for collaboration among clinician-researchers of different backgrounds, health economists, and health services and policy researchers.

For Fun: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Mexico City. I love cities. It's huge, in a neighboring country, and the Aztec history and legend of its founding are fascinating.

NEWS FROM CENTER AFFILIATES AND TRAINEES

Awards, Accolades, and Highlights



Former T32 pre-doctoral trainee Lyndsay DeGroot, RN, recently received the [John R. Burton Scholarship](#) from the Johns Hopkins Medicine Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology to support scholarly activities dedicated to improving the care of older adults. Recently, DeGroot was awarded a [National Research Service Award Individual Predoctoral Fellowship](#) from the National Institute on Nursing Research to support her doctoral training. She also became a Certified Nurse Educator.

Assistant professor of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Stephanie Nothelle, MD, was awarded [Best Poster in the Health Services Research/Population-Based Research category at the Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine](#) for presenting her work on "Frequency and Implications of Co-occurring Serious Illness in Older Adults."

Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Halima Amjad, MD, recently held a public seminar and defended her Graduate Training Program In Clinical Investigation dissertation titled "Flying Under the Radar: Understanding Older Adults Living Undiagnosed or Unaware of Dementia."

Health Services Research and Policy doctoral students So Yeon Kang and Angela Liu, along with Professors Caleb Alexander and Gerard Anderson, will be presenting their work "Patterns of Manufacturer-Sponsored Coupon Use for Prescription Drugs in the United States" at two podium presentations at the [2022 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting](#) on June 6 in Washington, DC.

A graduate of the [T32 pre-doctoral trainee program](#), Maningbe Keita Fakeye, PhD, is completing a [post-doctoral fellowship in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Johns Hopkins University](#) and will be joining the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions and Health Equity Institute as a lead health equity researcher conducting translational studies and highlighting the intersection of health equity and the structural and social determinants of health.

Policy Impact: Drug Pricing Affordability



Mariana Social recently [provided an expert testimony at the Maryland General Assembly](#) in support of the HB1397 Insulin Cost Reduction Act, which passed the Committee unanimously and is headed to voting in both chambers this spring. The bill would cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin to \$30 for a 30-day supply for all people insured in Maryland. Social also recently [participated in a Facebook live event with Ben Cardin](#), a Maryland Senator, to discuss the high price of prescription drugs. She also recently spoke to the National Association of Medicaid Directors about the pipeline of high-cost drugs and how Medicaid programs can prepare to face the high cost of new therapies.

Select NIA Funding Updates



Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Alicia Arbaje, MD, PhD, MPH, received National Institute on Aging (NIA) funding for the Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory to develop processes that identify and articulate older adults' needs and connect those needs to promising areas of A.I. technology. Arbaje will play a crucial role in disseminating the knowledge and mechanisms developed throughout this process to increase the awareness of the opportunities to address the needs of older adults through A.I. innovation in research and education programs.

Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, Chaneé Fabius, PhD, received an NIA IMPACT Collaboratory Career Development funding award for her research "[Engaging and Integrating Direct Care Workers in Care Delivery for Persons Living with Dementia in the Community](#)" from the National Institute on Aging IMPACT Collaboratory.

Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Stephanie Nothelle, MD, MPH, received a K23 award from the NIA for her project "[Primary care based collaborative approach to care management for older adults with dementia](#)".

In the Media

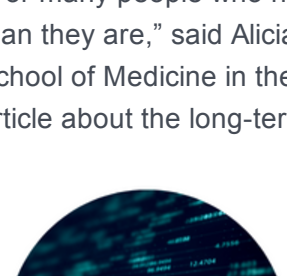


Bruce Leff, MD, a geriatrician at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, was [featured in a Johns Hopkins Medicine article](#) about this bold vision to bring acute-level care to patients in the comfort of their own homes.

Center director Jennifer Wolff, PhD, was [quoted in an article in the 19th News](#) about what older people and caregivers need to know about the COVID-19 omicron variant.

"For many people who have had COVID-19, the arduous recovery has left them feeling older than they are," said Alicia Arbaje, an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the [New York Times](#). Arbaje was also quoted in a [Medical News Today](#) article about the long-term impacts of COVID-19 in older adults.

New from NHATS and NSOC



NHATS and NSOC launched an [online course for new researchers](#) interested in using the data. Many Center affiliates are attending the [NHATS/NSOC Dementia Caregiving Conference](#) on May 2-3, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Connect with [NHATS and NSOC on Twitter](#) for up-to-date announcements and research updates.

Lipitz Center Issue Briefs



Faculty and staff at the Center recently developed three issue briefs [Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care 2021 Research Brief highlighting NHATS, Engaging and Supporting Family Caregivers in Care Delivery](#), and [Stemming the High and Rising Costs of Prescription Drugs](#).

SELECT PUBLICATIONS FROM TRAINEES

In a new [Journal of Medical Internet Research article](#), Safiyyah Okoye, John Mulcahy, Chaneé Fabius, Julia Burgdorf, and Jennifer Wolff found that of an estimated 35.3 million community-living older adults, 21.1 million (59.7%) were internet users, and of this group, more than one-third (35.8%) used telehealth.

Safiyyah Okoye, Laura Samuel, Chaneé Fabius, John Mulcahy, Lisa Reider, Sarah Szanton, and Jennifer Wolff found that older adults with recurrent falls were more likely to have lower education, lower income, financial hardship, live in homes with disorder and disrepair and in neighborhoods without sidewalks, with high social deprivation, and in nonmetropolitan counties in a new [Journal of Aging and Health study](#).

In a [Journal of Cardiac Failure paper](#), Lyndsay DeGroot proposes a framework for recruiting older adults with heart failure for research studies during COVID-19.

Lyndsay DeGroot co-authored [an editorial in Public Health Nursing](#) sharing how nurses used their dual expertise of clinical and public health knowledge to lead and innovate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lyndsay DeGroot co-authored [a study in the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing](#) finding that patients and caregivers had differing perspectives regarding the uncertainty of living with a ventricular assist device and end of life.

Julia Burgdorf, Alicia Arbaje, Jo-Ana Chase, and Jennifer Wolff led a new [study in the Journal of American Geriatrics Society](#) suggesting that efforts by policymakers and home health agencies to facilitate clinicians' training efforts could positively affect the cost and quality of Medicare-funded home health care.

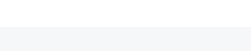
In a new [Journal of American Geriatrics Society](#) study, Julia Burgdorf, Alicia Arbaje, Jo-Ana Chase, and Jennifer Wolff identified barriers and facilitators to family caregiver training during Medicare home health care.

Linda Chyr, Lyndsay DeGroot, and Sydney Dy co-authored [a study in Annals of Family Medicine](#), which evaluated the effectiveness and implementation of models for integrating palliative care into ambulatory care for U.S. adults with noncancer serious chronic illness.

Danielle Powell co-authored a [Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience review article](#) summarizing the current research on the association between hearing loss and dementia and reviewing potential causal mechanisms behind the association.

Danielle Powell co-authored [a study in the Journals of Gerontology](#) finding that having both hearing loss and depressive symptoms (vs. having neither) was associated with faster rates of decline in the Modified Mini Mental State Exam and Digit Symbol Substitution.

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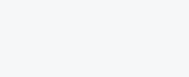
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