



# REACH PROGRAM

Recognizing and Eliminating disparities in Addiction  
through Culturally informed Healthcare

End of the Year Newsletter

## Congratulations REACH Scholars!

### REACH MISSION

The overall goal of the REACH training program is to increase the number of racial and ethnic minoritized addiction specialist and advanced health professionals adequately trained to work with racial and ethnic minoritized patients with substance use disorders in a culturally responsive way, which does not perpetuate health care disparities in addiction!

### Cohort 2 (2020-2021)



### Cohort 3 (2021-2022)



### Cohort 4 (2022-2023)



# Welcome **REACH Scholars**, it's time to **Connect, Grow, and Serve!**

The COVID-19 pandemic truly changed life as we know it. It brought the world to a close and epitomized the idea of isolation among us all. REACH was not exempt from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the REACH programming shifted to a virtual Welcome Workshop for cohort 2 and cohort 3, not allowing for in-person connection among scholars, mentors, and REACH Medical Directors.

But there is some light shining through the darkness of this time. REACH has weathered the storm and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing cohorts 1 through 5 together for a massive learning and networking event. We are hosting our 1st REACH Program Reunion in July 2023 in Atlanta GA.

The purpose of the reunion event is to boost scholars' morale, provide tangible support, and promote a sense of gratification and completion to all REACH scholars. This event further allows REACH to capture programming moments of engagement to **connect**, re-commit to the mission of REACH to **grow** in the number of racial and ethnic minoritized addiction specialists and advance healthcare professionals and provide opportunities to learn how to better **serve** racial and ethnic minoritized patients with SUDs in a culturally responsive way.

REACH appreciates the hard work and dedication of scholars to the field of addiction serving patients of racial and ethnic minoritized backgrounds with SUDs in a culturally responsive way. Keep REACH updated on your awards, accomplishments, community involvement, and publications by sending an email to reach@aaap.org.

## COHORT 2 UPDATES

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Kevin Simon

"Them and Me — The Care and Treatment of Black Boys in America"

*M.D. New England Journal of Medicine*

#### Chiedozie Ojimba

"COVID-19 Pandemic and Uptake in Suicide Attempt Among Young People of Minority Population: A Case Series"

*Journal of Medical Cases*

#### Chiedozie Ojimba

"The Use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in Substance Use Disorders: A Review of Literature"

*Journal of Clinical Medicine Research*

### COMMUNITY UPDATES

Kevin M Simon, MD became Boston's first Chief Behavioral Health Officer.

Chiedozie Ojimba presented "Substance Use & Young People – Implications: Addressing the Myths and Facts."

Joseph Ikekwere has been awarded the 2021 Ruth Fox Scholarship.

Ebony Caldwell, MD, MPH became a NIDA-AAAP Mentor-Facilitated Training Awardee.



# COHORT 3 UPDATES

## PUBLICATIONS

### Sunny Kung

"Trends in Buprenorphine Treatment Disparities During the COVID Pandemic in Massachusetts."

*Substance Abuse*

### Sunny Kung

"Optimization of the My Life, My Story Narrative Medicine Program for Patients with Limited-English Proficiency."

2022 *Society for General Internal Medicine*

### Edith Hernandez

"Chronic augmentation of endocannabinoid levels persistently increases dopaminergic encoding of reward cost and motivation."

*Journal of Neuroscience*

### Ashmeer Chima

"Pharmacological management of psychoactive substance withdrawal syndrome."

*Drugs & Therapy Perspectives*

### Roberto Sanchez

"A guide to post-acute withdrawal syndrome: Veteran and clinician guides."

*Veterans Affairs*

### Roberto Sanchez

"I Had to Use."

*Psychiatric Times.*

### Angelo Asheh

"Adverse Childhood Experiences are Associated with History of Overdose Among Patients in Outpatient Addiction Care."

*Journal of Addiction Medicine*

### Andre Rosario

"The Future of Psychiatry: Resident Perspectives and DEI Directives"

*Psycom Pro*

\*Silver Digital Health Award\*

### Tegan Carr

"Functional Decolonization: A roadmap to decolonization and its role in psychedelic research"



## COMMUNITY UPDATES

Jasser Khairallah, DO was chosen as the American Osteopathic Foundation's Outstanding Addiction Medicine Fellow of the Year; and accepted in the Master of Jurisprudence in Health Law Program at Loyola University Law School.

Roberto Sanchez was accepted in the Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Program at Yale University.

Caylan Moore matched with Yale School of Medicine.

Adrianna Tilton matched with University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Hazel Brogdon was selected to receive a NIDA – American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Resident Training Award in Substance Use Disorders

Ashmeer Chima, REACH Trainee was invited to provide a poster presentation at the 2021 AAAP Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium on "Loperamide: A Cheap and Easy High!"

Edith Hernandez was a recipient of the 2021 National Hispanic Health Foundation's Professionals Student Scholarship.

Angelo Asheh, REACH Fellow was a recipient of the MERF Scholarship, California Society of Addiction Medicine Medical Education and Research Foundation, 2019-2021.

Sunny Kung, REACH Fellow was a participant of the Clinical Process Improvement Leadership Program (Massachusetts General Brigham Lawrence Center).

Tegan Carr received the Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarship.



# COHORT 4 UPDATES

## PUBLICATIONS

**Amber Edinoff** achieved multiple book editorships and publications over the 2022-2023 program year. See below to view some of Dr. Edinoff's outstanding research!

"Clinically Relevant Drug Interactions with Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors."  
*Health Psychology Research.*

"Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, and Associated Bleeding Risks: A Clinical Review."  
*Health Psychology Research.*

"Designer Benzodiazepines: A new Culprit in the Major Class of Designer Drugs."  
*Neurol.*

**Jose Serrano Rosa**

"Are Advanced Practice Nurses in Puerto Rico ready for the Challenges and opportunities of the psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner role?"  
*Impulso.*

**Deborah Rose** has multiple publications pending over the 2022-2023 program year. See below to view some of Dr. Rose outstanding research!

"A developmental approach to diversifying neuroscience through effective mentorship practices: perspectives on cross-identity mentorship and a critical call to action "  
*Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience.*

"Evaluating Differences in Neurological Clinical Decision Making by Race/Ethnicity and Development a Scorecard to Assess Performance at Duke Health."  
*Neurology. (Pending, 2023)*

**Marcus Hughes**

"Changing approaches to treating opioid withdrawal in the USA."  
*The Lancet Psychiatry.*



## COMMUNITY UPDATES

Nicholas Apping was named an incoming NYU Chief Psych Resident.

Darve Robinson was a finalist in the Yale Pitchfest competition.

Amber Edinoff was a recipient of the John Renner Travel Awardee.

Marcus Hughes is named the 2023-24 Chief Resident of the Interventional Psychiatry Service, Department of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine.

Deborah Rose is the recipient of the American Neurological Association Black Academic Neurology Recognition Interview, the American Neurological Association's IDEAS Junior Member, and many more!

Gabriella Reed is the 2023-24 recipient of the International Collaborative Addiction Medicine Research Fellowship award and the Research in Addiction Medicine Scholars (RAMS) Program for 2022-24; with upcoming oral and poster presentations for AMERSA and CPDD.



# EVALUATIONS AND FEEDBACK

Based on the evaluations and feedback we received from scholars and mentors, here are the changes we have implemented for program quality improvements.

## COHORT 3 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

### Mentorship

- Reallocate funds to offer participation stipend for services and support of REACH during the 2021-2022 program year.

### Advisory Board

- Reallocate funds to offer participation stipend for services and support of REACH during the 2021-2022 program year.

### Webinars

- Highly reviewed webinars will be repeated.

### End-of-Year Programming

- In-person year end ceremony was held in Washington, D.C., which included in-person scholarly project presentations.

### Collaboration and Partnership

- In collaboration with the Opioid Response Network (ORN), we developed a cohesive video, based on cohort 3 scholar training, of how best to care for racial and ethnic minoritized patients with opioid use and other substance use disorders; and an accompanying resource guide grounded in the literature about best practices of taking care of racial and ethnic minoritized patients, especially for addiction specialists.

## COHORT 4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

### Mentorship

- Reallocate funds to offer participation stipend for services and support of REACH during the 2022-2023 program year.
- Issued "Special Recognition" award plaques to stellar mentors for going beyond the call of duty in support of REACH program and scholars.
- Increased the number of mentors from past cohorts.

### Advisory Board

- Reallocate funds to offer participation stipend for services and support of REACH during the 2022-2023 program year.
- Issued "Special Recognition" award plaques to stellar advisory board members for going beyond the call of duty in support of REACH program and scholars.
- Expand quarterly mentorship wellness sessions to include advisory board members.

### Webinars

- Rearrange webinar presentation topics to be useful for scholars during the program year.
- Add two new REACH presenters to discuss economic analysis and SUDs research and programming.
- Host the first REACH panel discussion on "A Day in the Life of an Addiction Specialist."
- Implemented monthly public speaking opportunities for scholars to introduce REACH webinar presenters. This practice helps promote confidence and enhance public speaking skills.

### Welcome Workshop

- Improved the cohort bonding activities and experiences.

### End-of-Year Programming

- Host an in-person REACH Program Reunion in Atlanta, GA, bringing cohorts 1- 5 together for a massive learning and networking experience.



## RESOURCES

Contact list for scholars  
Mentors & Speakers  
REACH Reading List & Additional Resources

- [reachgrant.org](https://reachgrant.org)
- [@ProgramReach](https://twitter.com/ProgramReach)
- [reach@aaap.org](mailto:reach@aaap.org)

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