



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER *at* FORT WORTH

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH DISPARITIES

The Impact Report



Institute for
Health Disparities

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a man with glasses and a mustache, and a woman in the foreground looking through a black Olympus microscope. The man is smiling slightly. The woman is wearing a dark blue shirt with a white circular logo that partially reads 'SCIENCE CENTER'.

About Us

WE ARE DEDICATED TO ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY BY BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHIER AND MORE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

The Institute for Health Disparities at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is unique. For nearly 20 years, the institute has acted essentially as an umbrella encompassing many worthy programs and initiatives that each focus on combating health disparities and achieving health equity.

From programs that address researcher diversity and train health care students and educators to ones that expose minority students to the possibility of careers in biomedical science, we at the institute are changing the future of health care. That's not even to mention the areas of research in health disparities in which our people engage, such as cancer research and women's and children's health.

These worthwhile initiatives develop people at each stage of their journeys and prepare them to not only make an impact on health disparities, but also continue our legacy of promoting diversity by engaging with the community.

While each of our programs takes a different avenue, the destination is the same: a world where health disparities don't exist. We're helping create a world that everyone who contributes to the mission of the institute — faculty, staff, researchers, community members, students, interns and more — can be proud to have impacted.

We could not do this without the support of our generous funders who believe in this vital work. We move closer every day toward eliminating health disparities by diversifying and empowering the very research and workforce striving to do the same.

Be a part of the institute's history and legacy.



Our Mission

At HSC's Institute for Health Disparities, our mission is to advance career paths in biomedical sciences and health professions so the workforce reflects the diverse constituency we serve. We aim to broaden partnerships, unify institutional pipeline programs, innovate education and training, conduct life-changing research in cancer and women's and children's health and lead diverse communities to opportunities in biomedical and behavioral science careers.

Through 18 grant-funded initiatives and endowments focused on minority health, the institute impacts research workforce, encourages equity in data used in artificial intelligence and machine learning, provides culturally responsive mentorship tools, conducts research and outreach to address cancer, long COVID-19 and much more.

From the Desk of the VP

“What many people don't realize is that health disparities don't only impact those experiencing the disparity. They affect the entire community. If nothing is done to resolve health disparities, they ultimately put a financial burden on the health care system and then on the community. Engaging the community is very important in resolving health disparities and achieving health equity.”

Dr. Jamboor K. Vishwanatha

Vice President of the HSC Institute for Health Disparities



The Institute for Health Disparities

The institute is the umbrella that encompasses several different initiatives and areas of research that impact health disparities on three different fronts.

MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES



TEXAS CENTER FOR
HEALTH DISPARITIES

TEXAS CEAL
CONSORTIUM

AIM-AHEAD
COORDINATING
CENTER

ENDOWMENTS

CANCER RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

OUTREACH



K-12 PROGRAMS

FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY
ADVISORY
BOARD

RESEARCH WORKFORCE DIVERSITY



NATIONAL RESEARCH
MENTORING NETWORK

SUMMER
UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH PROGRAMS

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT PROGRAMS

GRADUATE STUDENT
SUPPORT PROGRAMS

A Glimpse of What We Do



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE/MACHINE LEARNING CONSORTIUM TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY AND RESEARCHER DIVERSITY

aim-ahead.net

AIM-AHEAD enhances the participation and representation of researchers and communities under-represented in the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning models to improve the capabilities of this emerging technology to address health disparities and inequities.

AIM-AHEAD COORDINATING CENTER AND THE PRIME AWARDEE



NATIONAL RESEARCH MENTORING NETWORK

nrmnet.net

NRMN implements innovative, evidence-based best practices to improve mentoring relationships at institutions across the U.S.; connects highly knowledgeable, skilled mentors with motivated, diverse mentees to facilitate long-term, culturally responsive interactions; and encourages historically underrepresented mentees to succeed in their careers and contribute to biomedical research.

THE ONLY ONE IN THE NATION SERVING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY FOR CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MENTORING AND NETWORKING



TEXAS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE CONSORTIUM

texasceal.org

Texas CEAL uses community-engaged research and outreach strategies focused on COVID-19 awareness and education to address misinformation/mistrust and reduce the burden among disproportionately affected communities across Texas; promotes and facilitates inclusion of diverse racial and ethnic populations in clinical trials; and completed seventeen projects in three years in several counties across Texas.

LEAD INSTITUTION FOR THE TEXAS CEAL & ONE OF 21 CEAL TEAMS IN THE COUNTRY



TEXAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DISPARITIES

unthsc.edu/tchd

TCHD conducts research into health disparities, trains new investigators in health disparity research and conducts community outreach; enables trans-disciplinary, inter-professional collaborations and novel approaches to understanding minority health and eliminating health disparities; and has hosted a well-attended annual conference on health disparities for the last nearly 19 years.

ONE OF 12 SPECIALIZED CENTERS FOR MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE U.S. AND THE ONLY ONE IN TEXAS



NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH - NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MINORITY HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

The John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment, a \$20 million award, supports these programs:

- MiHERO PhD Scholars to support PhD students
- Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) supports junior faculty in grantspersonship & leadership
- Health Education, Awareness and Research in Disparities (HEARD) Scholars program to recruit and retain faculty
- Established endowed professorships

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

unthsc.edu/ihd/undergraduate-summer-research-internships/

The Summer Undergraduate Research Internship Program is a 10-week mentor-guided summer research training experience for undergraduate students across the United States.

- The Summer Multicultural Advanced Research Training (SMART)
- The Developing Undergraduate Researchers-Matter (DURA-M) Program, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Summer Scholars in Cancer Research (SSCR)
- Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)



Leadership

THE FACES OF THOSE PAVING THE WAY FOR
FUTURE HEALTH DISPARITY PROFESSIONALS

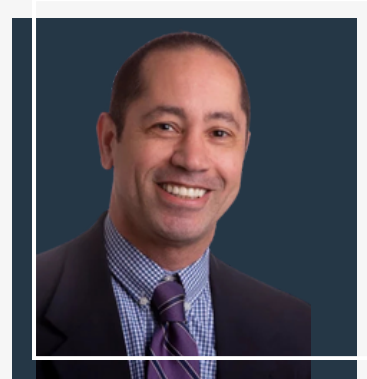


JAMBOOR K. VISHWANATHA, PH.D.

Vice President for Minority Health and Health
Disparities, *IHD*

**Presidential Award for Excellence in Science,
Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring
awarded by the U.S. White House, 2019**

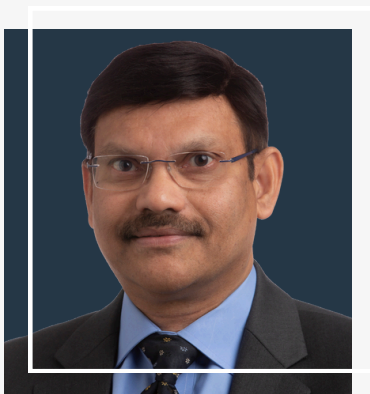
**Cancer Health Disparities &
Nanotechnology
185 Publications**



HARLAN P. JONES, PH.D.

Director, *IHD*
Associate Professor, Microbiology, Immunology
and Genetics, *School of Biomedical Sciences*

**HEARD Scholar
Health Disparities Research &
Advancing Health Equity
77 Publications**

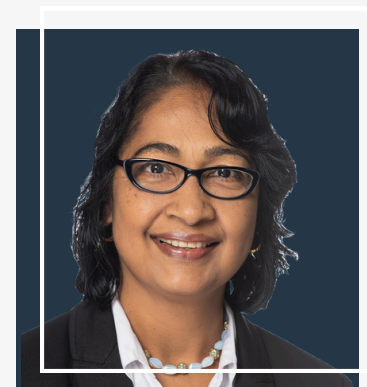


RIYAZ BASHA, PH.D.

Director of Research, *IHD*
Professor & Vice Chair for Research,
Department of Pediatrics and
Women's Health, *Texas College of Osteopathic
Medicine*

**Faculty Achievement Award 2021 •
HEARD Scholar**

**Cancer Therapeutics & Pediatric
and Young Adult Cancers
120 Publications**



LAVANYA VISHWANATHA

Director of Research Enterprise Solutions, *IHD*
Co-Investigator and PMO Director (Officer),
AIM-AHEAD

**PMP – Project
Management Institute**



I truly believe it is our mission to put an end to health disparities — to solve the problem and achieve health equity.

- Dr. Vishwanatha

Why Invest?

Your investment in the institute goes above and beyond our amazing programs and research. It will impact future generations of health care professionals as they do the hard work of identifying and addressing the cause of health disparities to create a more diverse, equitable world, especially in the field of biomedical science. **Here's how we've made an impact thus far — and we're not done yet.**

\$200M+

AWARDED OVER THE LAST
20 YEARS

\$35M

HSC FACULTY SUPPORT

300+

PUBLICATIONS AND
PRESENTATIONS

795

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE
TRAINEES

250

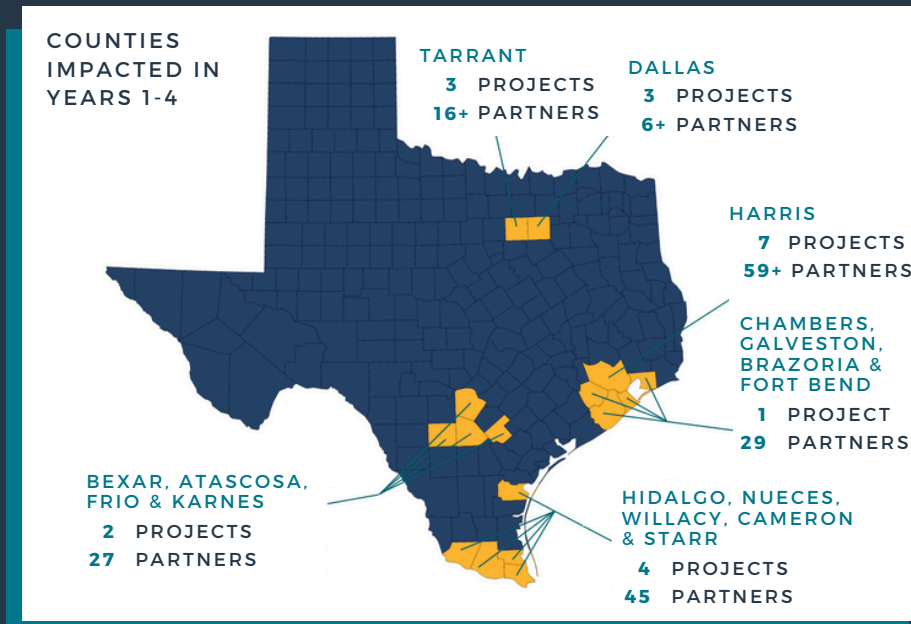
POST-DOC AND FACULTY
GRANTPERSONSHIP
TRAINEES

48

GRADUATE AND HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
TRAINEES

Making an Impact

TEXAS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE CONSORTIUM



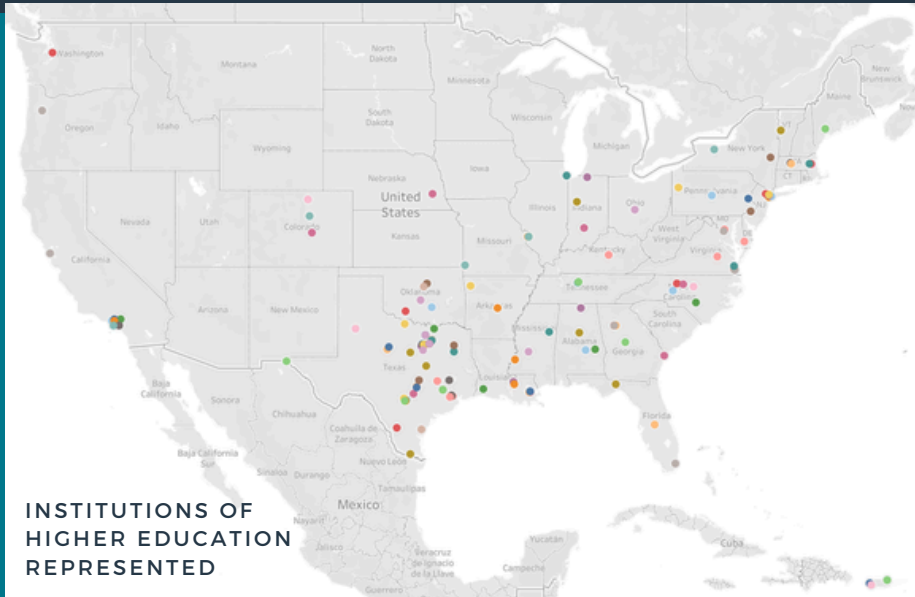
Texas CEAL began as a way to combat stigma and misinformation around COVID-19 vaccinations in under-served communities. Now in its third year, its impact has not only grown from five main counties in Texas most affected during the pandemic to surrounding counties, but also expanded to include long COVID and other infectious diseases.

NATIONAL RESEARCH MENTORING NETWORK



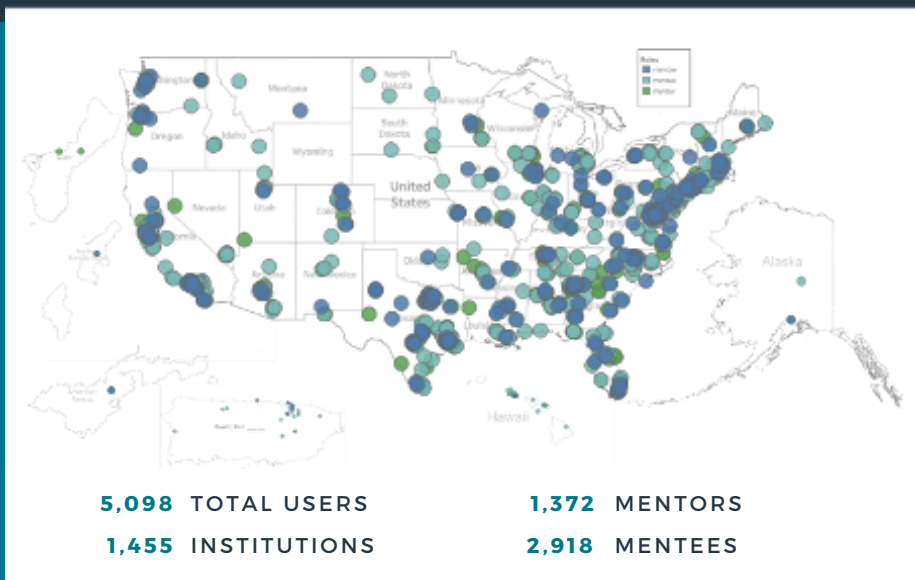
The National Research Mentoring Network consists of more than 32,000 members through the online platform that both connects diverse mentors and mentees from around the globe and provides easily accessible resources for growth and mentorship. Members represent **six** different nations, **7,276** mentors and **3,442** schools/organizations.

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



The Summer Undergraduate Research Internship Program reaches hundreds of students every summer and brings them from across the nation (and beyond) to HSC for mentorship and hands-on experience in research. These SRIP students from the past **six** years represent these institutions of higher learning.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE/MACHINE LEARNING CONSORTIUM TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY AND RESEARCHER DIVERSITY



The Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD) is a bold, innovative and substantive initiative in broadening the benefits of AI/ML technologies, reducing health disparities and inequities and enhancing diversity of the AI/ML workforce.

Changing Lives

“

It's important for us to talk about social determinants of health so we can combat any barriers and provide people with the quality health care they need, unencumbered by environmental factors that could hinder them. It's through research, education and awareness that we begin to identify those factors and address the issue of health disparity.

”



Dr. Harlan P. Jones

Director of the HSC Institute for Health Disparities



**Institute for
Health Disparities**

Institute for Health Disparities at UNTHSC



ihd@unthsc.edu



unthsc.edu/ihd/

Thank You

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS WE CAN CONTINUE
THIS LIFE-CHANGING WORK.



**The University of North Texas
Health Science Center at Fort Worth
Institute for Health Disparities**

3500 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth, TX
76107
unthsc.edu/ihd
ihd@unthsc.edu
817-735-2000



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