

Northeastern University

Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

A colleague at the Roux Institute would like to pass along an announcement for the **Northern New England Rural Summit**.

The conference provides an opportunity for school staff, higher education leaders, legislators, and community leaders to collaborate and share ideas with the goal of ensuring that rural youth are adequately prepared for success in high school, college, and beyond.

This year's conference will emphasize family engagement approaches, policies, and programs, such as the Dual Capacity Framework, that aim to bring families, schools, and communities together as allies in the achievement of every student.

The conference will be held from *Tuesday, September 10th to Wednesday, September 11th* at the Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa in Whitefield, NH, and registration is \$250.

Please visit [this link](#) for further information.

For questions about the event, please contact the event planner, Samantha Dodson-Skinner, at samdse@partnersrural.org.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND RURAL SUMMIT



New Hampshire

STATEWIDE FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Recent Institute Happenings

On Saturday, July 13th, **Eleanor Sanders**, previous IHESJR RA and PEAK Award Recipient, presented a progress update on her ongoing research at the *Psychology and the Other Conference* in London. Their project, titled *Prevalence of Mindfulness-based Practices Among Diverse Populations*, is co-authored by two other IHESJR RA's, **Larissa Steiner** and **Zoleigh Borg**, under the mentorship of IHESJR faculty scholar **Dr. Laura Dudley**.



Dr. Laura Dudley and Eleanor Sanders



Eleanor Sanders presents her research

On Tuesday, July 9th, **Dr. Idia Thurston** spoke at a LinkedIn Live Event entitled *Diversifying the Healthcare Workforce in a Post-Affirmative Action World*. The discussion, hosted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, aimed to provide leaders in academic health science programs with the resources needed to establish effective strategies to address the persistent challenges to diversity, equity, and inclusion nationwide. Presenters outlined alternative, evidence-based approaches for enhancing diversity in the healthcare and public health workforce.

In addition, Dr. Thurston co-authored a blog article titled *Advancing Equity in Higher Ed, in a Post-Affirmative Action Era*, detailing approaches for recruiting, retaining, and promoting a diverse range of faculty, staff, and students and providing guidance on future steps.

The LinkedIn Live recording can be accessed using [this link](#).

To read Dr. Thurston's article, please visit the blog at [this link](#).

Recent Publications

Dr. Idia Thurston recently submitted a new publication featured in a recent issue of *Pediatric Clinics of North America*. In the piece, titled *Anti-Racism, Heterosexism, and Transphobia: Strategies for Adolescent Health Promotion Post-COVID*, the authors identify key strategies to promote anti-racist, anti-heterosexist, and anti-transphobic practices and detail how the use of the health-equity adapted STYLE framework by adolescent health providers could improve health and well-being for Black and LGBTQ + adolescents. CHANGE Lab butterfly **Anthony Trinidad** also helped with making the image for this chapter of the publication. More details about the chapter are detailed in the image below.

Thurston, I. B., Fix, R. L., & Testa, E.G. (2024). *Anti-Racism, Heterosexism, and Transphobia: Strategies for Adolescent Health Promotion Post-COVID*. *Pediatric Clinics of North America*.



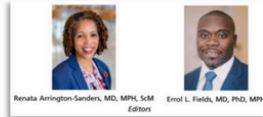
New issue of *Pediatric Clinics of North America* (38:2) published on **Adolescent Health in the Covid-19 Post-Pandemic**

Renata Arrington-Sanders, MD, MPH, ScM and Errol L. Fields, MD, PhD, Guest Editors



"To move forward and help youth heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, strengths-based strategies are needed to leverage youth strengths and promote different messaging that promote well-being and positive youth development. In this issue, key points and recommendations are provided for providers when addressing the needs of youth after the pandemic."

-----Renata Arrington-Sanders and Errol L. Fields, Guest Editors



Renata Arrington-Sanders, MD, MPH, ScM Errol L. Fields, MD, PhD, MPH
Editors

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Merrily LeBlanc, Sociology PhD student and IHESJR SGA, and her colleagues recently published an article in *BMC Women's Health* titled "Barriers to and opportunities for advancing racial equity in cervical cancer screening in the United States" finding that while most providers reported using a one-size-fits all approach with the goal of achieving racial equity, health equity experts recommend providers use a racism-conscious approach.

Merrily also recently published her paper "Healthcare stereotype threat, healthcare access, and health outcomes in a probability sample of U.S. transgender and gender diverse adults" in *Preventative Medicine Reports*, finding that Healthcare Stereotype Threat, the fear and threat of being perceived negatively based on identity-related stereotypes, was associated with not having a personal doctor/provider and poorer mental and physical health among a sample of transgender and gender diverse adults.

Summer 2024 PEAK Awardees

Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Awards are an opportunity for undergraduate researchers to gain new experiences in research and work with a mentor to advance their goals and projects.

We want to congratulate all the Health Equity Interns who received PEAK awards over the summer!

BASE CAMP AWARDS

Rachel Halvorsen, Bouvé '26

The Trauma Informed Classroom Design (TICD) Project

Mentor: Alisa Lincoln, Bouvé, Health Sciences

Srinithya Panamgipalli, Bouvé '25

How Social Determinants of Health Impact Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests

Mentor: Nasim Ferdows, Bouvé, Health Sciences

Samadhi Wijethunga, COS '25

Assessing Cognitive Behavior among Liver Cirrhosis Population Based on Social Determinants

Mentor: Dami Ko, Bouvé, Nursing

ASCENT AWARDS

Mitchell Goldberg, Bouvé '25

Spring 2024 HaRT Data Analysis

Mentor: Emily Mann, CSSH, Human Services

Romi Manela, Bouvé '24

Navigating Intentional Communities: Perspectives of Young Adults in Post-Pandemic America

Mentor: Laura Senier, CSSH, Sociology and Anthropology

SUMMIT AWARDS

Rohan Chopra, Khoury '26

Assessing the Impact of Transgender Violence on Health Outcomes Utilizing Electronic Health Records

Mentor: Winston Kennedy, Bouvé, Physical Therapy, Human Movement, and Rehabilitation Sciences

[Click here](#) for the Undergraduate Research and Fellowships' news article featuring all the awardees and their project details!

Institute News and Updates

In early July, the Institute welcomed three new staff members to the team!



Elizabeth Hill is the Co-op for the IHESJR and the CHANGE Lab (an IHESJR affiliate lab), helping to support the multidisciplinary cross-college team in co-designing a communication channel with community partners, which will then be piloted. In addition, she will support a range of research activities at the IHESJR.

Elizabeth is a third-year Behavioral Neuroscience and Philosophy combined major who has research interests in cognitive development and the impact of health and fitness on cognitive well-being. Additionally, she is interested in the use of technology in the realms of health care, health informatics, and neuroscience.



Tiffany Hidalgo is the Co-op for the Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL), a collaboration between the Institute and the Center on Crime, Race, and Justice (CRJ), helping to develop communications materials and processes, building a Lab culture, and contributing to various research projects.

Tiffany is a fourth-year Criminal Justice and Psychology major, pursuing a PlusOne in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Tiffany is passionate about supporting individuals who have faced significant challenges and has a deep commitment to addressing human trafficking.



Maible Daly is the Co-op for the IHESJR, helping to support the IHESJR events, and will be an integral member of our research teams.

Maible is a fourth-year Health Sciences and Psychology major with an interest in pursuing graduate coursework in clinical psychology. She is particularly interested in pursuing research projects that focus on community mental health.

Starting in September, all three co-ops will be located in office 330 within the Institute until the end of the fall semester.

Self-Care Spotlight

♥ A resource to consider using to center your wellbeing and care for yourself. ♥



Group Fitness

Northeastern University Recreation offers group fitness classes at the Marino Center. Full-time undergraduate students, currently enrolled part-time NU undergraduate and graduate students, and full-time benefits eligible faculty & staff are eligible to enroll. For fees and registration information, please visit [this link](#).