



December 1, 2018

Delta SOPHE Chapter

Society for Public Health Education

Upcoming Event!!

2019 Annual Spring Conference

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



"Helping to improve the health of people through education"



Delta SOPHE Chapter

Jackson Medical Mall ♦ 350 West Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Box 999 ♦ Jackson, MS 39213 ♦ <https://www.deltasophe.org/>

Mission

To promote, encourage and contribute to the advancement of health of all people through education.

Goals

- 1. To support and enhance the preparation and training of health education professionals by offering at least two professional events annually.*
- 2. To promote the use of research-based health education programs throughout the community.*
- 3. To promote the field of health education and advocate for the inclusion of health education programs in various settings.*
- 4. To increase system access to health education initiatives.*

2017-2018 Executive Committee

President

Dr. William "Bill" Cissell

President –Elect

Dr. Patricia Frye

Vice President for Louisiana

Dr. Emmanuel Clottey

Vice President for Mississippi

Ms. Erin Murphy-Cromeans

Secretary

Dr. Nakietra Burse

Treasurer

Dr. Mohammad Shahbazi

Chapter Delegate to SOPHE

Dr. Joni Roberts

Note: Dr. Martin Ayim is the (immediate) Past President, which is an automatically awarded title based on service as Chapter President.

2017-2018 Committee Chairs

Advocacy

Dr. Allison Ford-Wade

Bylaws/Leadership

Dr. David Birch

Communications and Publicity

Dr. Sherry Gibson

Continuing Education

Dr. Patricia Frye

Finance and Budget

Dr. Mohammad Shahbazi

Membership

Dr. Emmanuel Clottey

Nominations

Dr. Mary Crump

President's Message

Let me repeat two thoughts from the second issue of the Delta SOPHE News. "Things continue going well for Delta SOPHE in 2018. We continue to build on the success we had in membership growth in 2017."

The Delta SOPHE Summer Social was enjoyed by eleven members in the Babalu Restaurant, which is in the Fondren section of Jackson, Mississippi. We gathered at 1:00 p.m., took a group picture, and visited over lunch. We realize the location limited participation for many members who work and reside at a distance from central Mississippi. Therefore, members of the Executive Committee welcome suggestions for how we might stimulate social gatherings by Delta SOPHE members in other locations throughout our region.

An exciting thing happened recently. Your president was contacted by Gigi Holder, who reported that she has taken a position with the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. The reason this is particularly exciting is that Gigi is the current Chapter Delegate for the Paso del Norte Chapter of SOPHE. Gigi has experience in providing leadership as the Speaker of the SOPHE House of Delegates. Please find additional information about Gigi below and posted on the Delta SOPHE website.



Erin Murphy-Cromeans, Vice President for Mississippi, and her team of planners did an excellent job of planning of the 2018 Annual Fall Delta SOPHE Conference. The Conference was a roaring success; Erin and her team were able to find sponsorship that supplemented the income from registration fees. Please note that Dr. Angela Michalide, SOPHE President, was among the featured speakers during the 2018 Annual Fall Delta SOPHE Conference. Other featured speakers were Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Interim State Health Officer, Mississippi State Department of Health, and Catherine Moring, President-elect, Mississippi Public Health Association.

Please note that Dr. David Buys, Featured Member of Delta SOPHE for October, is the current President, Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA). He has invited Delta SOPHE to plan its Fall 2019 Conference in coordination with the planning of the MPHA 2019 Annual Conference. This is practical due to the number of Delta SOPHE members located in or near Jackson, MS, where the MPHA Annual Conference is typically held.

Please review the minutes of the 2018 Delta SOPHE Fall Business Meeting, which was held on October 26, 2018, in Oxford, MS. These minutes, prepared by Dr. Nakietra Burse, Delta SOPHE Secretary, appear below and on Delta SOPHE website. These minutes will be presented for approval during the Delta SOPHE Business Meeting, which will be hosted by Delta SOPHE members in Tuscaloosa, Alabama early in 2019.

Thoughts, suggestions and recommendations for enhancement of the Delta Chapter of SOPHE are welcome. Anything you wish to mention will be accepted respectfully and given consideration. An organization functions best when its members are actively contributing to its improvement and advancement. Again, I repeat the last paragraph of the second issue of the Delta SOPHE News: "Please actively support the Delta SOPHE Chapter in as many ways as you can. Currently, we are considered one of the most vibrant chapters of SOPHE. We need to continue to recruit new members; plan, conduct and evaluate meetings and conferences; provide continuing education opportunities and credits; provide frequent and high-quality communications; support student members in obtaining scholarships and internships; and be continually proactive in helping Delta SOPHE be the best chapter it can be."

William "Bill" Cissell
President

Delta SOPHE Area Hit Hard by Opioid Addiction



All three states—Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi—of the Delta SOPHE area are in the top five states with the highest rates of opioid prescriptions for their citizens. According to the CDC report, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2017-cdc-drug-surveillance-report.pdf> (downloaded 8/13/2018).

Alabama ranks highest among the fifty states in opioid prescriptions, with more prescriptions than citizens; Louisiana ranks fifth, and Mississippi ranks fourth. According to the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), 40% of individuals who die from drug overdose, which averaged 117 per day in 2016, were previously prescribed opioids. (See: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>, which was downloaded 8/13/2018).

Public health and medical professionals in all three states have taken this epidemic seriously and have developed plans for addressing it. The Alabama plan can be accessed at: https://www.mh.alabama.gov/Downloads/CO\AlabamaOpioidOverdose_AddictionCouncilReport.pdf (downloaded 8/13/2018).

The Louisiana plan can be accessed at: <https://www.nola.gov/mayor/newsarchive/2017/20171018-pr-release-of-comprehensive-plan-to-addre/> (downloaded 8/13/2018).

The Mississippi plan can be accessed at: <http://www.dmh.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/FY-18-20-Second-Quarter-Strategic-Plan-Highlights-Flyer.pdf> (downloaded 8/13/2018).



Jennifer Evans



Meghan Shewmake

Alabama VPs Report

By Jennifer Evans and Meghan Shewmake

Due to the impact of the opioid crisis, the Spring 2019 Delta SOPHE Business Meeting and Seminar will include presentations on this topic. Please see below the preliminary agenda. *(The dates of the meeting/seminar are to be announced.)*

Draft Agenda Delta SOPHE Spring Business Meeting & Seminar

Thursday

6:00 -7:00 p.m. Dinner- Executive Board

7:15-8:30 p.m. Executive Board Business Meeting

Friday

9:00-9:30 a.m. Check-in/Registration

9:30-10:45 a.m. *"The Opioid Crisis in American"*
Presented by Jordan Buckley, SOPHE

10:50-11:00 a.m. Break

11:00-12:00 a.m. Lunch and Panel: *"Addressing the Opioid Crisis in the Delta"*
(Presenter from each of the three states)

12:00- 12:15 p.m. Break

12:15-1:00 p.m. Breakout sessions

1:00-1:15 p.m. Closing

Jackson Heart Study Renewed, Expanding

Published by on Monday, August 20, 2018

Media Contact: Karen Bascom

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health renewed its support of the [Jackson Heart Study](#), expanding the program's ability to make discoveries about cardiovascular health, translate these findings for the community and train the next generation of biomedical scientists.

The JHS is the largest longitudinal cohort study of cardiovascular health in African-Americans. Since 1998, the JHS has studied more than 5,300 people from the Jackson metropolitan area. Investigators at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson State University and Tougaloo College received official notification of the extension last week.

"The funding is new but the JHS goal remains the same: to figure out what factors can cause and prevent heart disease in African-Americans. [The partner institutions] will keep working together in the JHS. But the JHS goal can only be reached if you keep participating," Dr. Adolfo Correa, director of the JHS and a professor of medicine at UMMC, wrote in a letter to the cohort members.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death for Americans. Among African-Americans, nearly half of adults have some form of cardiovascular disease, and about one in four dies of heart disease.

"With this new funding, we will do many of the same activities," Correa said, such as conducting annual follow-up with participants about their health and hosting community events to share study findings.

The renewed funding also allows for several new components.

"We are delighted to tell you that there will be a new Jackson Heart Study Exam 4 during 2020 - 2022," he wrote.

Like its predecessors, this exam will add to the extensive longitudinal data on cardiovascular disease risk factors, socioeconomic and sociocultural factors, and measures of subclinical disease from imaging studies and biological samples.

Results from the JHS have been published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association- Cardiology](#), [Journal of the American Heart Association](#) and [Science Translational Medicine](#), among other journals.

At UMMC, the NHLBI funding supports the JHS coordinating and field centers, which handle use of the data for new research questions and maintain contact with the JHS cohort.

This next JHS phase will also include a component on the relationship between heart health and brain health.

The JHS also gains a new Training and Education Center, or TEC, at UMMC for graduate students interested in cardiovascular epidemiology and related biomedical research. Led by School of Population Health Dean Dr. Bettina Beech, it joins the existing centers for graduate students at JSU and high school and undergraduate students at Tougaloo.

Jackson Heart Study Renewed, Expanding (Cont.)

"The Graduate Training and Education Center [provides] training that uses...data from the Jackson Heart Study community that will allow scholars to contribute to the workforce in biomedical sciences and public health," said Dr. Marinelle Payton, director of the graduate TEC and assistant dean for research and program development in the School of Public Health at JSU.

"Also, this opportunity adds value to scholars' practical experience in health research to help prepare them for potential careers in biomedical research and professions that will greatly impact the Jackson Heart Study community," Payton said.

Dr. Wendy White of Tougaloo College said that thanks to the support of the NHLBI, nearly 200 students have gone through the undergraduate training program, more than half of whom went on to pursue graduate and professional degrees in health-related sciences.

"The Jackson Heart Study is so important for the community and our students," said White, principal investigator of the undergraduate TEC. "It's profound what we have accomplished. To say that we have been going strong for nearly 20 years speaks to how [the NHLBI] holds us in high regard."

In the upcoming period, the Mississippi State Department of Health joins the JHS and will manage the new Community Engagement Center.

"We will promote cardiovascular health in the targeted communities surrounding the Jackson area. These include Madison, Rankin and Hinds counties, however, we will extend our work statewide," said Dr. Victor Sutton, Director of the Community Engagement Center and Office of Preventive Health at MSDH. "Our team will educate our communities and implement evidence-based activities to support optimal health. We look forward to sharing our work across all centers throughout the nation."



Victor Sutton

Outside of the Jackson metropolitan area, the JHS maintains relationships with multiple universities serving as Vanguard Centers and makes its data accessible for ancillary studies.

NHLBI Jackson Heart Study project officer Cheryl Nelson wrote in a letter to participants, "Your involvement in the study over the past nearly 20 years has helped to advance our knowledge and direction of medical research in this critical area – and, we believe, is saving lives."

The JHS is funded by the NHLBI and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.

**Slate of Executive Committee Officers for
Delta SOPHE for 2019 & 2020**

By Dr. Mary Crump

**Dr. Patricia Frye
President Elect**

Dr. Patricia A. Frye currently serves as the Director, Public Health Workforce Development, School of Public Health, Jackson State University (JSU). Her recent endeavors have included training individuals to deliver high quality health related services; assisting individuals in preparing to take national certification examinations; conducting college courses in public health; and conducting program evaluations. Prior to beginning her work in public health, Dr. Frye served in the U.S. Armed Forces for more than 20 years where she received various awards and accolades.

Dr. Frye has Doctor and Master of Public Health degrees from Jackson State University, a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Missouri, and Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Maryland. Dr. Frye is nationally Certified in Public Health and a Master Certified Health Education Specialist.

**Dr. Nakietra Burse
President Elect for 2019-2020**

Dr. Nakietra Burse currently serves as secretary for Delta SOPHE. She is an alumna of the DrPH Program at Jackson State University. She is currently the Director of Grant Writing Services for the School of Public Health at JSU. She previously worked for My Brother's Keepers as a grant writer.

**Dr. Marshae McNeal
Vice-President -Louisiana**

Dr. Marshae McNeal is a faculty member at Louisiana State University-Shreveport (LSUS). She helped plan and implement the Delta SOPHE Spring 2018 Business Meeting and Seminar, which was held at LSUS.

**Ms. Rebecca Rich
Vice President -Alabama 2019-2020**

Ms. Rich is currently a second-year doctoral student.

**Dr. Zeldra Vawters
Treasurer**

Dr. Zeldra Vawters is the Treasurer nominee. She is an alumna of the Jackson State University DrPH Program. Dr. Vawters is federally employed with the Public Health Associate Program. Prior to placement with the Mississippi State Department of Health, she worked for a non-profit agency as a Program Coordinator/Case Manager.

**Dr. Yalanda Barner
Secretary**

Dr. Yalanda Barner is the nominee for Secretary. She is currently serving as Director of Marketing and Field Placement for the School of Public Health at JSU.

Slate of Executive Committee Officers for Delta SOPHE for 2019 & 2020

Ms Angela Omondi

Student Representative to the Executive Committee for Mississippi

Ms. Angela Omondi was the Delta SOPHE Featured Student for the month of July 2018. Ms. Angela Omondi, MPH, CHES is a second year doctoral student in the Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health, School of Public Health at Jackson State University. She earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in health promotion and disease prevention from the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, Florida International University, located in Miami, Florida. One of the hallmarks of Ms. Omondi's MPH training was the opportunity to complete an internship with Baptist Health System of South Florida in Miami. After graduation, Angela moved to Phoenix, Arizona for a health education position with Interactive Health, Inc. The health education position provided her with an opportunity to apply behavioral interventions that prevent diseases among local communities.

Ms. Omondi began her public health journey while in Kenya. Growing up in an African country, she was no stranger to the devastating negative impact of diseases on communities and the lack of insufficient infrastructure and manpower to deal with preventive measures. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Foods and Nutrition from the University of Eastern Africa Baraton, Kenya. After graduation, she worked at Kenya's top referral hospital, the Kenyatta National Hospital as a nutrition consultant, and was majorly involved in the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS through health education. Ms. Omondi also served as an *Assistant Lecturer* in the School of Nutrition and Dietetics and School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the Technical University of Kenya in Nairobi, where she taught a variety of courses in nutrition and diet therapy.

Ms. Omondi has served as Co-Chair of the SOPHE membership committee and presented a scientific paper entitled, "*Theories, Misconceptions, Media, and the Public: Ebola in Perspectives*" at the SOPHE (2015) conference in Portland, Oregon.

Ms. Omondi's research interests include cervical cancer screening behaviors among rural and racial/ethnic minority women. She is also passionate about HIV prevention, self-care management and social supports among rural, black and minority women. Ms. Omondi teaches an online public health course at the University of South Wales, UK. Looking forward, Angela aspires to an academic career that allows her to balance research, teaching, and international consulting with African countries, including her homeland. Ms. Omondi expects to graduate with a Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) in December 2020!

Ms. Omondi is one of JSU's School of Public Health budding leaders and is on the MOVE!!

Adrienne Davis

Student Representative to the Executive Committee for Louisiana

Megan Campbell

Student Representative to the Executive Committee for Alabama

Slate of Executive Committee Officers for Delta SOPHE for 2019 & 2020

Gigi Holder

Delta SOPHE Chapter Delegate

Ms. Holder is a recent graduate of a dual Master Program for Public Health and Social Work at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. She is currently working at the University of MS Medical Center in a one-year fellowship position as a social worker. She is currently the speaker of the SOPHE House of Delegates and the Chapter Delegate for the Paso Del Norte Chapter of SOPHE. She will assume her duties as Delta SOPHE Chapter Delegate in April 2019, because she needs to complete her term for the Paso Del Norte Chapter through March 2019

Renew Delta SOPHE Membership

Please renew your membership in the Delta Chapter of SOPHE. The membership fees are very modest at \$25 for professional members and \$10 for student members.

Delta Chapter of SOPHE, or Delta SOPHE, is a thriving, exciting organization. In March 2018, a business meeting and seminar/workshop was held at Louisiana State University-Shreveport, and in October the Annual Fall Conference was held at The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in Oxford. The Spring 2019 Business Meeting/Seminar will be held at The University of Alabama.

Delta SOPHE has an informative website which is updated frequently. A featured professional member and featured student member are highlighted each month. There are opportunities for both professional and student members to become involved in various activities of Delta SOPHE.