Dear Friends:

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance has enjoyed 18 successful years thanks to the collaborative achievements of Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The Alliance was established in 1999, when the two institutions signed a cooperative agreement to bridge Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s faculty, staff and students. In 1999, both institutions agreed to establish an Alliance “built on mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual benefit.” Since that time, the Alliance has established a reputation for developing and supporting collaborative initiatives and programs, both in biomedical research and clinical science training.

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The Alliance culminated its 15-year Anniversary with lectures by Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc, from the University of Miami Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health, funding projects and core resource infrastructure for bringing precision medicine approaches to research on health disparities.

Growing External Funding:

In 2016, the Alliance recognized and stepped into a professional development gap to hold The Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research Conference, convening researchers and community partners to share success stories and lessons learned.

• Purposeful Support of Health Care Access for All: Working with the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee, the Alliance supported and facilitated MyHealthCare Home, a web service linking the area’s uninsured and underinsured to affordable, accessible, quality healthcare through the Safety Net’s clinic partners.

Community engaged research and elimination of health disparities remain a major focus of our work at the Alliance. We remain committed to bringing the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical College investigators and communities while expanding the scope of inter-institutional collaborations.

Sincerely,

James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD
President and CEO
Meharry Medical College

Jeffrey R. Balser, MD, PhD
President and CEO
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Maria Fatima Lima, PhD
School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University

Cheorie Farmer-Davis, DNS
Dean and Professor, School of Nursing

Vernonna T. Mallett, MD, MPH
Interim Dean, Meharry College of Medicine

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dear Colleagues,

Last year Anniversary with lectures by Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc, from the University of Miami Center for Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health, funding projects and core resource infrastructure for bringing precision medicine approaches to research on health disparities.

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James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD
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Jeffrey R. Balser, MD, PhD
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Vanderbilt University Medical Center
At a time when many institutions are just starting to form partnerships with one another, we have the privilege of having a strong foundation in which two institutions with very different goals have found many in common.”

– Consuelo H. Wilkins
Executive Director, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

In the fall of 1998, Dr. John Maupin, President of Meharry Medical College (MMC), and Dr. Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), began talks for a mutually beneficial collaboration. Both Meharry and Vanderbilt existed since the mid-1870’s and operated as completely separate institutions. There were occasional interchanges. Faculty from both campuses would sometimes teach or conduct joint research programs. Beyond that, however, there was little or no interchange.

Maupin and Jacobson set about determining what would constitute a mutually beneficial and enduring relationship. After almost a year of meetings with faculty, it was determined that the areas of shared interest and opportunities for collaboration included:

- undergraduate medical education
- shared library services and informatics
- joint research and training programs
- collaboration with community partners

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance (MVA) opened on January 2, 1999, under the leadership of Dr. Clifton K. Meador, who served as Executive Director until his retirement in 2012.

15 Years of Collaboration

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance celebrated its 15th anniversary with a lecture series featuring speakers from across the United States to discuss health disparities and population health.

The Alliance also awarded mini-grants supporting community engagement to Julie’s Village, Health Impacts of Degraded Environments (HIDE), Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center and the Nashville Latino Health Coalition. Julie’s Village, founded by Julie Hamilton, reduces barriers to breastfeeding by filling a huge gap in prenatal, breastfeeding preparedness education, and HIDE (through a partnership with Meharry Medical College, Tennessee State University and community members) investigated asthma rates in the Cayce community in Nashville. Likewise, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center serves the Middle Tennessee community, and the Nashville Latino Health Coalition is a collaboration between the Hispanic community and public health and academic organizations who share the goal of improving health.

15-YEAR CELEBRATION

History and accomplishments of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance are captured in various reports, publications, and on the MVA website. Past reports include:

- 2000
- 2003
- 2007
- 2010

Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center CEO Katina Beard meets with MVA Director of Planning and Community Engagement Elisa Friedman, MS at the MVA’s 15-Year Anniversary Celebration. Matthew Walker received a mini-grant for its work serving the Middle Tennessee community.

Leah Alexander, PhD, MMC Assistant Professor; Flora Ukolli, MD MPH, MMC Professor; Al Richardson, MD MPH, CDC Public Health Consultant; H. Nilsson, MD, MPH, MHSA Executive Director, Access Investment; J. Jordan, MPH, Meharry Associate Professor; Shalinee Datta, MD, MSc, UNLV Professor; Stephanie Miller-Hughes, PhD, MMC Associate Professor; Amanda Gifford, MPH; RD, PhD, MMC Professor; and others met for Community Roundtable Discussions during the MVA’s 15-Year Anniversary Celebration.
ReSEARCH

Emphasizing the engagement of patients and community stakeholders in all phases of research, the Alliance addresses health disparities, health interventions, participant engagement, and patient-centered outcomes in healthcare.

GRANTS
Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR)
VICTR, supported by the NIH-sponsored Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), is Vanderbilt’s virtual home for clinical and translational research with the mission to transform the way ideas and research discoveries become improved patient care. The Meharry-Vanderbilt Community-Engaged Research Core (CERC) is an inter- and intra-institutional, multi-disciplinary program that integrates the principles of participatory engagement in all aspects of its work.

MMC, VUCC, & TSU: Partners in Eliminating Cancer Disparities
The overall objective of the U54 grant is to strengthen and expand the existing cancer research partnership between Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and Tennessee State University (TSU). The project became a reality in 2000, when Samuel Adunyah, PhD, and Harold Moses, MD, successfully competed for one of only two U54 National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Partnership Grants that were funded in the country.

CFAR: Tennessee Center for AIDS Research
VUMC received a five-year grant from the NIH to establish the Tennessee Center for AIDS Research with Meharry Medical College and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). Its aims are to build the infrastructure and establish the facilities within the consortium that will enable the consortium to conduct research on HIV/AIDS and related topics at Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and Vanderbilt University.

The Precision Medicine and Health Disparities Collaborative (PMHDC)
Researchers at VUMC, University of Miami and Meharry Medical College were awarded a five-year, $11.4 million grant to launch a new center enabling research using precision medicine approaches to address health disparities, specifically those among African Americans and Latinos in the Southeast region.

Mid-South Clinical Data Research Network (MS-CDRN)
The Mid-South Clinical Data Research Network (MS-CDRN) includes academic centers, community hospitals and a range of outpatient practices providing access to clinical data, patients, providers, and systems to address a wide array of research questions. The Stakeholder Advisory Council, made up of Community Members and Patient Investigators, stress to strengthen the network’s efforts.

PUBLICATIONS/CITATIONS
Genomic Medicine

Addressing Health Disparities
“Needs, Priorities and Recommendations for Engaging Underrepresented Populations in Clinical Research: A Community Perspective”, a paper co-authored by Dr. Wilkins under her MV A research team and published in the Journal of Community Health in June 2017, addresses healthcare disparities that result from under-represented groups in outcomes research and that engaging these groups in a public health priority for reducing such disparities.

Community Engagement Studios
“Community Engagement Studios: A Broader Approach to Obtaining Meaningful Input From Stakeholders to Inform Research” a paper authored by Yvonne Joosten, MPH, Dr. Wilkins, et al., was published in the medical journal, Journal of Community Health in June 2017, addresses healthcare disparities that result from under-represented groups in outcomes research and that engaging these groups in a public health priority for reducing such disparities.

Medicine in December 2015. Diabetes Study
In June 2015 “Assessing the Effectiveness of Pharmacy-Directed Medication Therapy Management in Improving Diabetes Outcomes in Patients with Poorly Controlled Diabetes” a study showing that underserved patients with sub-optimally controlled type 2 diabetes cared for by pharmacists were more adherent to their medication regimen and had better blood sugar control than those who did not have a pharmacist in their care team” was published in the medical journal: The Diabetes Educator and featured in Diabetes Today and Drug Store News.

CULTIVATING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS
Workshops
In June 2015, the Alliance presented a series of five educational sessions: Reviewing Scientific Literature and Grants 101, Writing a Scientific Manuscript, Fundamentals of Study Design, and Biostatistics Fundamentals (Part 1 and Part II).

Matchmaking Partners
The AFA brought together Kimberlee Wycho-Ellinger, MS from MMC and Kristy Lindfield, MEd from VUMC, to pilot a weight loss campaign entitled “Losing Big.” The 12-week program provided an innovative take on inspiring healthy lifestyles in the community through group support and competitive motivation, with inspiration drawn from the popular television series “The Biggest Loser.”

Total number of joint grants with MMC and VUMC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>Total number of joint grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>VICTR</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>72.22%</td>
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As a health department director, I have to understand my community,” Hacker said. “The role of the community is important in determining health outcomes for all who live there. Ultimately, it’s going to be the communities that affect change.

COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Alliance both convenes and participates in various coalitions, councils, and committees that focus on health issues of mutual concern.

Nashville Health Disparities Coalition

The Nashville Health Disparities Coalition (NHDC) empowers community members in priority population groups to seek better health, helps change local health-care practices, and mobilizes communities to implement evidence-based public health programs to reduce health disparities across a broad range of conditions.

Faith and Health

The Faith and Health Collaborative, a sub-committee of the Nashville Health Disparities Coalition, brings together national and local experts, community partners, faculty and students. Community Roundtable topics focus on issues of high priority to the community.

Healthy Nashville Leadership Council

The Healthy Nashville Leadership Council (HNLC), established by Executive Order in 2002 by Mayor Bill Purcell, seeks to improve health and quality of life for those who live, work, learn, worship and play in Nashville.

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Women’s Heart Alliance

The Women’s Heart Alliance (WHA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to women’s heart health. In February 2017, the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance joined the WHA, Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, and others to announce the Cities and Communities with Heart Initiative (CCHI) Nashville, a collaborative, multi-year effort to stop women in Nashville from suffering and dying from cardiovascular disease (CVD).

MINI-GRANTS

In celebration of 15 years of partnership between MMC and VUMC, we awarded mini-grants to support activities that promote ongoing, mutually beneficial, health research partnerships between community organizations and academic researchers. In addition to Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center and Progress Community Center, these are highlights of two mini-grant recipients.

Health Impacts of Degraded Environments (HIDE)

Poor air quality is a potent asthma trigger, and the Cayce community in East Nashville is burdened with one of the highest asthma rates in Davidson County, Tennessee. With funding from a MVA 15-Year Anniversary Grant, HIDE formed a partnership with MMC, Tennessee State University, and community members to investigate indoor and outdoor environmental exposures.

Juliet’s Village

The MVA supported Juliet’s Village with a mini-grant to partner with a researcher at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing to educate women about breastfeeding. Juliet’s Village helps women develop customized breastfeeding pathways and helps corporations implement breastfeeding policies and training.

Bottom left: Margaret Hargreaves, PhD serves as Co-Investigator and Associate Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core and as Professor in the Department of Medicine at Meharry Medical College. She was also a Co-Principal Investigator on the MVA’s 15-Year Anniversary Mini-Grant for MWCHC.

Bottom right: Women’s Heart Alliance Executive Director British Robinson and country music singer Martina McBride at the announcement of the Cities and Communities with Heart Initiative Nashville.
INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Creating innovative avenues for inter-professional and educational collaboration for students and faculty to share and apply knowledge to leave a lasting impact on the community. Alliance programs are developed to leverage strengths and collaboration.

IPE PILOT PROJECT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Students from Belmont University, Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University, MAMC, and VSU were honored for their work with non-profit organizations serving the community at the 2014-2015 Inter-Institutional Interprofessional Education Student Pilot Project Recognition Ceremony.

The Interprofessional Education (IPE) Pilot Project in a collaborative effort between academia and the community. Students in the healthcare field work together with non-profit organizations with the goal of bettering their community. Students in the healthcare field work together with non-profit organizations with the goal of bettering their community.

IPE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

St. Luke's Community House

St. Luke's was founded in 1915 in The West Nashville Clinic by the Daughters of the King, an order of the Episcopalian Church. Kate Falmouth founded the Community House with the mission of helping low income families, seniors and individuals in West Nashville achieve their potential and prevent problems that threaten the stability of families and community. (http://www.stlch.org)

Street Works

Street Works is one of Tennessee's leading HIV service organizations, providing free, confidential testing and support services to persons living with HIV disease in the Nashville/Middle Tennessee area since 1997. Their mission is to prevent the spread of HIV disease and provide care and supportive services for those infected and affected through outreach, education, and advocacy in communities of greatest need. (http://street-works.org)

Urban Housing Solutions

Urban Housing Solutions is a spin-off of The Council of Community Services (CSS) housing division, which began in Nashville in the late eighties, to address the need for long-term, affordable housing for the homeless. Today, Urban Housing Solutions manages over 30 properties, and offers a wide array of affordable housing for all communities of greatest risk. (http://www.urbanhousing-solutions.org)

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The Interprofessional Education (IPE) Pilot Project is a collaborative effort between academia and the community. Students in the healthcare field work together with non-profit organizations with the goal of bettering their community. The project offers an opportunity for collaboration in a real-world setting.

In all, six teams worked to produce tangible products, ranging from pamphlets to instructional videos for community partners, including St. Luke's Community House, Street Works, and Urban Housing Solutions.

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FACULTY COLLABORATIVE

IPE Faculty Director: Mavis Schorn, CNM, PhD, FACNM

Mavis Schorn, CNM, PhD, FACNM, was appointed Interprofessional Education and Inter-Institutional Collaborative Learning Faculty Director for the Alliance in August 2016. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Texas in Austin, a master's degree from Texas Woman University, and certification in Nurse Midwifery from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, a PhD from the University of California, San Francisco, a Breast Oncology Fellowship at Stanford University, and a Preventive Medicine Residency at Meharry Medical College. She was certified as a Healthcare Simulation Educator (CSHE) with the Society of Simulation in Healthcare.

IPE Co-Director: Regina Stokes Offodile, MD

Regina Stokes Offodile, MD became Meharry’s Co-Director of the Interprofessional and Inter-Institutional Collaborative in September 2017. She earned her master's in Health Professions Education and in Management of Healthcare from Vanderbilt University. Additionally, she completed a Surgical Residency at King/Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, a Breast Oncology Fellowship at Stanford University, and a Preventive Medicine Residency at Meharry Medical College, and she was certified as a Healthcare Simulation Educator. Educator with the Society of Simulation in Healthcare.

It is important to the future of health, the future of well-being in general, that we learn how to be teams as we take care of individuals.”

Ron Crowder, Founder of IPE community partner Street Works, speaks during the IPE Pilot Project Recognition Ceremony.

“Working in healthcare, two things become clear,” Schorn explained. “First, everyone works together. Nobody can provide care in isolation. And second, our education is very separate. The students must learn to work together in teams before they go into practice. It makes for better healthcare.”

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Regardless of profession, it’s important to know different people in different fields of life.

– Terry Lyles
Meharry Dental student and MVSA Co-President

Day in February 2016 with members donating time from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, and Vanderbilt University Law School to assist with oral health kits, health screenings, and community legal sources.

Social Activities
Soccer Exhibition
Students from Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University gathered in October 2016 for a soccer exhibition at the Vanderbilt Fieldhouse. The game—which was organized by Adam Evans, a medical student at Meharry, and David Tovar, an MD/PhD student at Vanderbilt—sought to increase interactions between the schools.

Whose Central Line Is It Anyway?
Held in February 2017, “Whose Central Line Is It Anyway?” centered around a series of game show competitions between academic years, with teams comprised of students from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine MD Program and students from the Meharry Medical College MD and Dentistry Programs. Games included Family Feud and Jimmy Fallon’s famous Egg Russian Roulette.

Community Service
Community Tree Planting
In conjunction with the Tennessee Environmental Council, MVSA and 100 KINGS (a youth program of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee) helped plant over 100 trees in Whites Creek, Tennessee. The Tennessee Environmental Council demonstrated how to correctly plant trees so that roots stabilize the trees and effectively extract the excess water from the soil.

Angel Tree Program
The MVSA met at the Salvation Army warehouse to sort and fill bags with holiday gifts for children of all ages. Based on the child’s wants and needs identified on his or her registration card, toys and clothes were chosen from the immense inventory on hand.

Second Harvest
In February 2016, the MVSA, along with Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee and Vanderbilt VOICE (Vanderbilt Organization for Interdisciplinary Student Community Engagement), hosted a Community Day at Divine Art Cafe & Toffee Art Cafe in East Nashville. The volunteers sorted more than 4,000 lbs. of food and water and directly donated over 55 lbs. of canned goods that was provided to food shelters throughout Middle Tennessee.

MEHARRY-VANDERBILT STUDENT ALLIANCE

Education Activities
Summer Movie
Escape Fire
The Vanderbilt chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) was contacted by the producers of the film Escape Fire for an advance screening ahead of the nationwide release in October 2012. Vanderbilt and MMC students saw this screening as an opportunity to do a joint event. The MVSA hosted the event, with more than 250 students and faculty participating.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
This moving story of a man whose life is changed in the blink of an eye was released in 2007. Guest lecturers from MMC and Vanderbilt University engaged in a brief discussion after a summer screening sponsored by the AMSA, the MVSA and Meharry’s Student Interest Group in Neurology.

Work-Life Balance
In November 2013, the Meharry-Vanderbilt Student Alliance (MVSA) hosted an educational seminar discussing the importance of work-life balance. Panelists consisted of three couples who shared their experiences and answered questions posed by students in attendance.

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Back-to-School Picnic
The importance of networking was the central theme at the Meharry-Vanderbilt Student Alliance’s annual Back-to-School Picnic in September 2015. MVSA President Terry Lyles told everyone gathered at Vanderbilt’s Centennial Park, “Regardless of profession, it’s important to know different people in different fields of life.”

Regardless of profession, it’s important to know different people in different fields of life.

– Terry Lyles
Meharry Dental student and MVSA Co-President
As part of their work with the CERC Community Scholars program, Josh Cockroft worked with The Next Door. Robert M. Witt, MD worked with the CERC Young Scholars program and worked with the Michelle Wise.

Vanderbilt Mentors and Meharry Medical Students

The Student/Faculty Research Program gives first-year Meharry students the opportunity to participate in a collaborative research effort with Meharry faculty. Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance faculty on a faculty member at another medical school. The student and mentor are encouraged to design research such that an abstract and a manuscript for publication by a peer-reviewed journal will be generated.

Meharry Medical Students

Student Internships

The MVA offers student internships, allowing students to contribute to the Alliance’s ongoing mission to enrich learning and advance clinical research through partnerships among MMC, VUMC, and the communities they serve. Through the years, their interests have ranged from health to education, and their contributions have included presentations accepted by research and medical conferences.

Ryan Ber interned with the MVA during the summer of 2015. The Toronto, Canada native aspired to become a primary care physician, and later that year, his submission “Assessing the Impact of Health Literacy, Numeracy and Race on Willingness to Participate in Biomedical Research” was accepted for an oral presentation at the Health Literacy Research Conference. A second year dental student at Meharry School of Dentistry, worked with the Nashville YWCA investigating how dentistry can prevent or stop domestic violence.

Josh Cockroft, a fourth-year medical student at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, worked with The Next Door to examine how the role of trust in healthcare systems and providers affects healthcare utilization in women.

As part of their work with the CERC Community Scholars program, Josh Cockroft worked with The Next Door. Robert M. Witt, MD worked with the CERC Young Scholars program and worked with the Michelle Wise.

There’s so much more to healthcare than just being a physician, and you don’t have to be a physician to make a difference.

—Cha’koya Smith, MPH student

Matthew Danter

Robert Cronin/Michael Delbaum

Jeffry Nyman

Ann Richmond

Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel

Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel

Deb Friedman

Pam Hull

Pam Hull

Rob Makuch

Deb Friedmann

Michael Nave

Christina-Lorrie Katrina Almondar

Carla Artingo/Amanda Blanker

Zachary Warren

Joy Good

Liske Sandler

Shaina Johnson

Scott Zuckermain

David G. Harrison/Liang Xiao

Benjamin Hornbady

Stacy Stark

William Oloskey/Eligian Xiao

Daniel Classroom

Daniel Fabbri

Deb Friedman

Deb Friedman

Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel

Ann Richmond

Robert Cronin/Michael DeBaun

Life Chloe* Mary Shani

Sashael Johnson

Joseph DeBar"n

Emily Marks

Chyi Yee

Matthew Danter

* photo not available

Student Faculty Research Program Summer 2017

Faculty Mentors

Meharry Faculty/Students

Sarah Atukula

Robert Cronin/Michael Delbaum

Jeffry Nyman

Ann Richmond

Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel

Alicia Beeghly-Fadiel

Deb Friedmann

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Pam Hull

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Ann Richmond

Robert Cronin/Michael DeBaun

Life Chloe* Mary Shani

Sashael Johnson

Joseph DeBar"n

Emily Marks

Chyi Yee

Matthew Danter

* photo not available
COMMUNITY IMPACT

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

The MV partners with numerous community partners throughout the Nashville area on research, education and community engagement efforts. The following are highlights of just some of the organizations and individuals who have collaborated with the MV.

Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee

Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee (MHAMT), founded in 1946, connects the community with specialized mental health resources, provides services that improve quality of life, and promotes effective services where mental health needs exist.

As part of a recent grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Tom Starkel, President, and CEO of MHAMT, and his organization hope to disseminate information and support research, prevention, treatment, and care for mental illness—efforts that led to a partnership with the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engagement Research Core. Canedo and Dr. Pam Hull serve with the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee, which sought to promote educational and research activities. The mobile market, a partnership with the MV Academy where she studied environmental justice, in 2016, a preliminary report was published detailing instances of declining wages and working conditions. “The MV A served a supportive role for me,” Williams said. “There are multiple components to the grant, can help to combat the reality of food deserts by bringing fresh produce via the Mobile Market at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry. Above: Community Organizers Taylyn Lewis and Samuel McCullough and REACH 2020 Director Linda McClure at a Mobile Market in Nashville General Hospital at Meharry.

The MV A awarded Workers’ Dignity a $5,000 grant to take part in the organization’s ongoing effort to improve conditions for low-wage workers in Nashville. In February 2016, a preliminary report was published detailing instances of declining wages and working conditions. “The MV A served a supportive role for me,” Williams said. “There are multiple components to the grant, can help to combat the reality of food deserts by bringing fresh produce via the Mobile Market at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry. Above: Community Organizers Taylyn Lewis and Samuel McCullough and REACH 2020 Director Linda McClure at a Mobile Market in Nashville General Hospital at Meharry.

Mobile Market at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry

The Mobile Market, hosted every Tuesday by Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center and Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, offers fresh fruits and vegetables grown by Barbour’s Farm in Southern Kentucky. The Mobile Market serves in the report came from interviews with 52 people employed throughout Nashville as hospitality workers. Their rights and establish firm consequences for employers who take advantage of them.

Mobile Market to food desert communities with an emphasis on 37207, 37208, and portions of 37209 zip-codes.

Worker’s Dignity

The primary goal of Workers’ Dignity, a worker-led organization battling wage theft and systemic abuse against low-wage workers, is to unite workers about their rights and establish firm consequences for employers who take advantage of them.

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Worker’s Dignity

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The conference succeeded in refueling my passion for community-based participatory research to find better ways of assisting in the care of disenfranchised and underserved populations.

—Geraldine Peacock, Apostolic Faith Church, Chicago, IL

This conference provided research teams, populated by both researchers and community members, opportunities to engage and explore community engaged research strategies and programs.

—Milton “Mickey” John, PhD Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Medical School, University of Minnesota Associate Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute Director, Office of Community Engagement to Advance Research and Community Health
Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI, is a physician, biomedical researcher and Executive Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance. Dr. Wilkins holds faculty appointments as Associate Professor of Medicine at both VUMC and MMC and is widely recognized for her innovative work in community-engaged research.

Dr. Wilkins is the Principal Investigator (PI) of more than $25 million in research awards including funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). She pioneered methods of stakeholder engagement that involve community members and patients in research across the translational spectrum. The Community Engagement Studio is one approach that was recently scaled to engage more than 650 community members across 12 states in 77 face-to-face consultations for the Precision Medicine Initiative Pilot.

Engaging communities in research is a key strategy in Dr. Wilkins' health equity research and is deeply embedded in her work as a PI of two NIH-funded centers: the Precision Medicine and Health Disparities Collaborative, which focuses on decreasing disparities among African Americans and Latinos using precision medicine, and the Vanderbilt Recruitment Innovation Center, a CTSA-wide center dedicated to enhancing recruitment and retention in clinical trials.

As leader of the MVA Dr. Wilkins oversees a portfolio of cross-institutional initiatives in three pillars: community health and engagement, translational research, and interprofessional education. Dr. Wilkins serves in leadership roles in the community including on the Board of the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee and the Steering Committee for Nashville Health.

Principal Investigator of a research portfolio of more than $25 million in research awards.

Contributed to 34 examples of health disparities literature and overall science focusing on African Americans and their health outcomes.

Serves on eight National Leadership Committees including the National Institutes of Health, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and Neurological, Aging, and Musculoskeletal Epidemiology Study Section.

Co-Authored Publications per Year 1998-July 2017

Co-Authored Citations per Year 1998-July 2017

Meharry and Vanderbilt Co-Authored Publications

Joins Publications & Social Media

Dr. Wilkins speaks with MVA Co-President Christopher Hardy at the MVA’s annual Back to School Picnic.
The Alliance will enrich learning and advance clinical research by developing and supporting mutually beneficial partnerships between Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and the communities they serve.