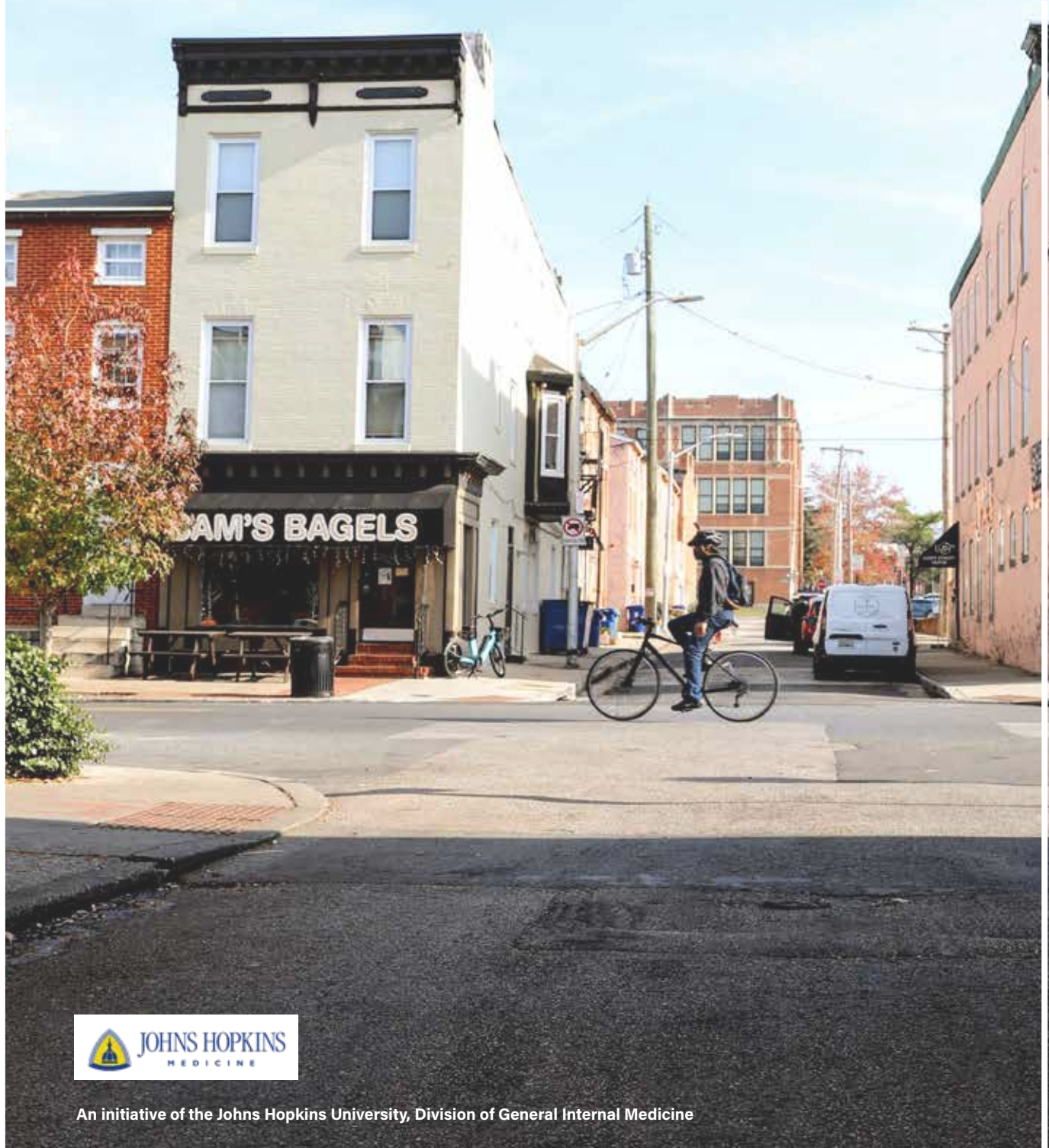


# BRANCATI CENTER

## FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY CARE

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



An initiative of the Johns Hopkins University, Division of General Internal Medicine







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# OVERVIEW

## About the Center



The Brancati Center was established by a philanthropic gift from Walgreens and endowed in the name and vision of Dr. Frederick Brancati, Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Brancati was an internationally recognized expert on type 2 diabetes. Before his untimely death at the age of 53 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Dr. Brancati was a highly regarded teacher and mentor, having won numerous awards from students, fellows, and colleagues. He was emblematic of a deeply caring and kind physician and leader. His love of community was evident in all he accomplished.

## Mission

The Brancati Center improves the health of communities – locally and nationally – by developing, evaluating, and disseminating new models of health care that leverage the skills of a diverse range of healthcare providers. The Brancati Center engages community and corporate organizations, payers and policymakers in a supportive partnership with patients and caregivers.

**Our work is health-focused, evidence-based, and outcomes-driven. We also have a strong focus on sustainability to ensure that our partnerships and programs are enduring.**

## The Center pursues their mission through three major activities:

### Community Program Implementation

The Center supports activities that identify and address the health and wellness needs of communities, especially in disadvantaged areas. It establishes partnerships to enable the implementation and dissemination of innovative, evidence-based approaches to improving health, and advocates for policy changes to help sustain effective new programs. The Center partners with organizations with similar goals or who are seeking to add health to their mission.

### Education

The Center supports educational activities and programs that promote diversity in the healthcare workforce, as well as programs that increase opportunities for community-based and community-oriented education.

### Community-based Research

The Center supports research activities that study existing and innovative care models that utilize a wide range of providers in community settings to offer health and wellness services with a focus on demonstrating improved patient outcomes, reduced costs, and reduced health disparities.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## *A year's overview (2022-2023)*



The Brancati Center has celebrated continued success and growth in the 2022-2023 academic year. In 2022, we were awarded \$500,000 over two years from the Packard Foundation to support the infrastructure of the Brancati Center. These funds are dedicated to core center support as well as opportunities to engage expertise related to health economics and health policy. Having dedicated funding to support infrastructure is crucial to the Center, as these types of activities are typically not covered by grant funds.

With ongoing funding from the Health Services Cost Review Commission, Dr. Nisa Maruthur led our efforts to expand access to the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) across Baltimore City. We saw a 120% growth in the number of people enrolled in the DPP from the previous year. We also launched the Center's first Spanish language Diabetes Prevention Program and implemented a community-based hemoglobin A1C screening program. These efforts are consistent with our mission of expanding access to healthcare services in the communities we serve.

It was exciting to kick off the Interfaith Family Health Center (IFHC) activities this year. A partnership with Liberty Grace Church of God, the IFHC initiative has expanded our reach by offering health education and screening services in West Baltimore.

We continue to test new models of care with input from our community. The FEED study, a partnership with Moveable Feast, concluded in 2022, and we have plans to expand on the findings from that study to improve the care of people with diabetes who are also facing economic hardship. Dr. Maya Venkataramani is leading two DPP-related studies: the Family DPP Pilot Study and a study evaluating the factors that impact engagement in the DPP among Black/African American younger adults. We are also supporting DPP studies led by faculty in other schools and Divisions, as well as research related to smoking cessation and alcohol use among women.

Dr. Tanjala Purnell led our education-related efforts that focused on the continued implementation of the social determinants of health curriculum for Johns Hopkins clinical residency programs. We also continued our COVID-19 education and vaccine efforts, with the goal of reducing vaccine hesitancy and increasing vaccination rates in Baltimore City.

We are working tirelessly to ensure that our programs are sustained and have a long-standing impact in our community. We continue to look for new ways to address health concerns and for partners to collaborate with us; please contact us if you are interested! Finally, we are grateful to our community partners and to our funders for all their support. We wish everyone good health in the next year!

Sincerely,

**Jeanne M. Clark, MD, MPH**

Executive Director, Brancati Center

Frederick L. Brancati, MD, Professor of Medicine





## OUR PARTNERS

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
American Heart Association  
Galilee Baptist Church  
Garden of Prayer Christian Church  
Greenmount West Community Center  
Health Freedom: A Path to Wellness  
Health Resources Community Collaboration (HRCC)  
Israel Baptist Church  
Koinonia Baptist Church  
Liberty Grace Church of God  
Married Mates Ministry, Inc.  
Memorial Baptist Church  
Mora Crossman Recreation Center

Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries  
Moveable Feast  
Operation PULSE  
Our Lady of Pompei Church  
Priority Partners Managed Care Organization  
ReBUILD Johnston Square  
Shiloh Baptist Church of Edgemere  
United Baptist Church  
University of Maryland Medical System  
Walgreens  
Y of Central Maryland Head Start  
Zion Baptist Church

**We are so grateful to all of the partners who collaborated with us this year.**

**Thank you!**

# COMMUNITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

## Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

The Brancati Center has partnered with community organizations since 2015 to provide the Centers for Disease Control's National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a 12-month lifestyle change program that is proven to prevent type 2 diabetes. The Brancati Center continues to offer the DPP both in-person and via distance learning (Zoom).

In 2021, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) awarded the Johns Hopkins Health System and the University of Maryland Medical Center funding to establish the Baltimore Metropolitan Diabetes Regional Partnership (BMDRP). This funding has allowed the Brancati Center to significantly scale implementation of the Diabetes Prevention Program in the zip codes surrounding the Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.



**The Brancati Center's in-person and distance learning DPPs earned "full plus" (five-year) recognition from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).**

### DPP OVERALL OUTCOMES (2016-2023)

**81**

Cohorts  
launched

**1,115**

Participants  
enrolled in the  
program

**71%**

Retention  
rate

**89%**

Attendance  
rate

**60%**

Meeting CDC  
Goals \*

\* CDC Goal: 5% weight loss, or 4% weight loss plus 150 minutes average physical per week, or 0.2% A1C reduction

### KEY EFFORTS IN 2022-2023

- **Successfully enrolled and billed Johns Hopkins Employee Health Plan (EHP) members. EHP is the first commercial payer contracted with the Brancati Center on the DPP.**
- **Developed the infrastructure and began billing Medicaid and EHP for distance learning delivery of the DPP.**
- **Hired the Center's first bilingual coaches and launched the Spanish Language Diabetes Prevention Program.**
- **Began community-based hemoglobin A1C screening to determine program eligibility.**



## Spanish Language DPP

In partnership with Johns Hopkins Centro Sol, the Brancati Center team developed and implemented its first Spanish language Diabetes Prevention Programs. The collaboration resulted in a better understanding of how to best recruit, enroll, engage, and retain Latinx participants in a yearlong lifestyle change program.

Beginning in June 2023, two groups of participants meet weekly at Our Lady of Pompei and Mora Crossman Recreation Center. The Brancati Center is exploring funding opportunities to expand our delivery of the Spanish language DPP.



# COMMUNITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

*Continued...*



## DECIDE/Power to Control Diabetes

From 2019-2023, the Brancati Center partnered with three churches in Baltimore City to implement the DECIDE (Decision-making Education for Choices in Diabetes Everyday) self-management program, supported by funding from the Abell Foundation.

DECIDE was developed by Dr. Felicia Hill-Briggs and is an evidence-based program that has been proven to improve individuals' knowledge and skills to manage their diabetes and their diabetes-related outcomes. We successfully launched six cohorts, enrolling 46 individuals; the majority of groups were delivered virtually via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, program participants experienced a significant reduction in HbA1c and weight up to four months after program completion. We also found significant improvements in measures of diabetes-related knowledge by the end of the program.

**We were saddened by the passing of our friend and supporter, Dr. Felicia Hill-Briggs, who died in June 2023.**

Born in Baltimore, Dr. Hill-Briggs was a clinical psychologist and behavioral scientist who invented the DECIDE program, a self-management program designed to be delivered in communities for people with chronic diseases, like diabetes. Dr. Hill-Briggs was also a strong supporter of the Brancati Center's efforts to expand the Diabetes Prevention Program in Baltimore City and beyond. Her work will have a lasting impact on the health of our communities.



# COMMUNITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

*Continued...*



## COVAX Grant - Vaccine Events

The Brancati Center was awarded a grant from Civic Works and the Baltimore City Health Department to provide COVID-19 related education and increase vaccination rates in the Midway/Coldstream, Clifton-Berea, Madison/East End, and Greenmount East neighborhoods of Baltimore City. Under this grant mechanism, we partnered with Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Garden of Prayer Christian Church, Greenmount West Community Center, Israel Baptist Church, and Walgreens to offer community-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics at each site. We also organized and advertised flu clinic events at Walgreens stores in or near the target neighborhoods. The clinics were held in May 2023 and 58 people received updated COVID-19 vaccines.

Drs. Venkataramani and Clark are part of a larger COVID-19 grant from the Baltimore City Health Department (April 2023 - December 2024) led by Drs. Kathleen Page and Stephen Sisson, that will continue community vaccine clinics, as well as education for providers and communities.

## Interfaith Family Health Center of Baltimore

We received funding from the Abell Foundation and Weinberg Foundation to develop broad-based health initiatives in the Ashburton and surrounding communities in partnership with Liberty Grace Church of God in West Baltimore. The goals of the Interfaith Family Health Center (IFHC) are to implement health education and screening programs.

To start, the Brancati Center and Liberty Grace teams conducted six focus groups to learn more about the top health concerns of those communities. Common themes included the need for information around mental health, chronic disease management, and food access/nutrition. To address these health concerns, the IFHC developed 'Family and Friends Day' events held monthly at Liberty Grace Church. Each event will be focused on one to two health topics and will include an educational session and direct health services.





# EDUCATION

## Brancati Center Bulletin Newsletter

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health student Mamadou Sy redesigned the Brancati Center Bulletin. Distribution of up-to-date health information to our community resumed monthly in November 2022. The initial goal of the Bulletin was to disseminate up-to-date COVID-19 related information but has since expanded to include other health topics important to our community. The Bulletin is distributed via email, the Brancati Center website, and the Brancati Center's social media channels.

## Residency Curriculum Development

The overall goal of the residency curriculum is to enhance skills in community engagement and capacity to address the social determinants of health with a long-term goal of tailoring core curricular components to meet the needs of all Johns Hopkins residency programs.

Since 2019, these workshops were implemented in collaboration with the Urban Health Residency Program (Medicine-Pediatrics and Internal Medicine), Health Equity Track of the Pediatric Residency Program, and the General Surgery Training Program. Since 2021, we have also collaborated with the General Surgery Training Program to implement annual Violence Prevention Workshops.

In 2023, we began a new collaboration to update the existing Health Disparities Module and to create a new Social Determinants of Health Module as part of the Physician Education and Assessment Center (PEAC) Internal Medicine: Ambulatory Care Curriculum. PEAC is an online educational platform utilized by Johns Hopkins residency programs as well as residency programs across the world.

**The program includes four core workshops designed to enhance residents' awareness and understanding of:**

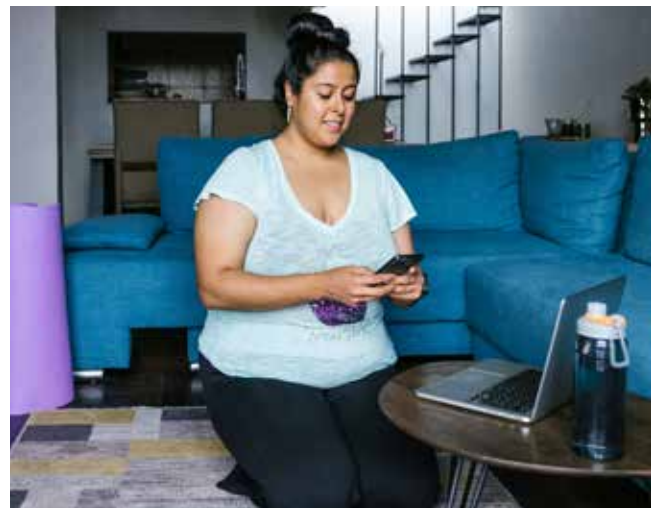
- **Social determinants of health** and available screening tools
- **Vital role of the interdisciplinary health care team** and other sectors in identifying and addressing the social determinants of health
- **Strategies to develop effective interpersonal and working relationships** with diverse populations
- **Community engagement principles**



*Continued...*

## Health Freedom

The ongoing NIH-funded study, “Health Freedom: A Culturally Relevant mHealth Intervention to Promote Cardiovascular Health Equity,” is being conducted to examine how best to adapt the “Health Freedom Circle of Friends” program into a mobile health (mHealth) app intervention to promote CVD risk reduction among diverse communities in Maryland, Mississippi, and Indiana. Circle of Friends is a community-based educational and behavioral intervention that aims to promote heart-healthy lifestyles, all while making integrative use of Maryland’s role in the Underground Railroad. The study results will be used to develop and test the mHealth intervention’s acceptability, usability, and impact among participants. This year key stakeholder meetings have been conducted and the team has collected feedback from community members regarding programming aspects. App development is in progress.



## COVAX Education

In addition to hosting COVID-19 vaccine clinics, the Brancati Center team conducted several listening sessions and educational events with our community partners focused on vaccine hesitancy. Common themes shared with us include the fact that there are still many prevailing myths about COVID-19 vaccines that continue to circulate within our community. We found that having conversations with community members and presenting the most up-to-date information helped shift perceptions.

During the listening sessions, we shared important information about the vaccines. We reinforced that vaccines could prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death – important points that community members were not aware of. We also shared crucial data, such as the vaccination rates in their neighborhoods were lower than the state average. Lastly, we distributed vaccine-related educational materials to large segments of the community. We estimate that more than 720 people received vaccine education because of our efforts.

**We were fortunate to have many outstanding students from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health work with us this year!**

- **Mamadou Sy** - Redesign of the Brancati Center Bulletin, COVAX education and vaccine initiative
- **Laura Gottschalk** - Development of DPP promotional materials for the community
- **Kristel Bugayong** - Social media content development, website redesign
- **Hein Nyan** - DPP participant outcomes reporting

# RESEARCH

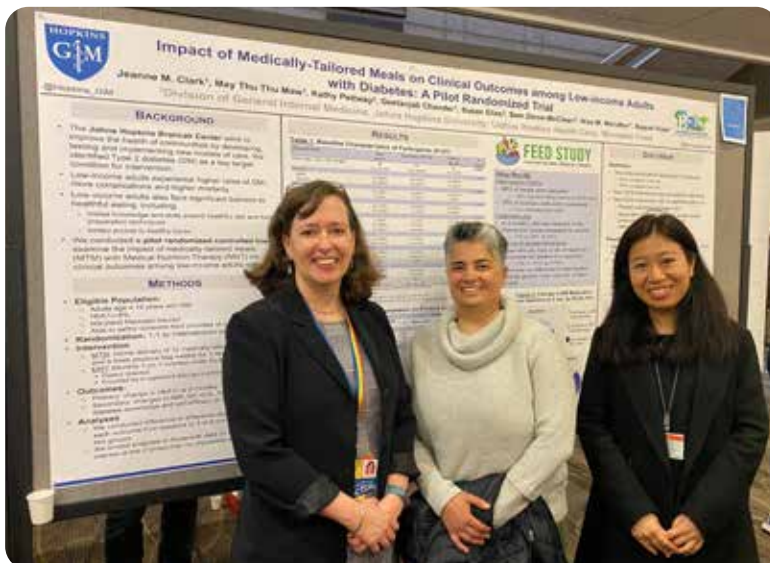
## FEED Study

In 2018, the Brancati Center partnered with Moveable Feast, an organization that provides medically tailored meals to people living with chronic disease, and Priority Partners, on a research project to characterize the impact of medically tailored meals and nutrition counseling on health-related outcomes among food insecure adults with type 2 diabetes in East Baltimore compared to usual care. Funded by the Leonard & Helen R. Stulman and France-Merrick foundation, 74 participants enrolled in the randomized controlled trial, and study visits were completed in September 2022.



Moveable Feast volunteers

The results showed that food insecurity decreased significantly while people were receiving medically tailored meal delivery. Additionally, for those participants receiving the meals and education, diet quality improved. However, there was no difference in control of diabetes, high blood pressure, or other measures between the two groups. Overall, we learned that a more comprehensive approach to diabetes care is needed and we are seeking funding for a new study that coordinates care across providers, payers, and community resources to improve outcomes of people living with diabetes.



FEED Study Poster from the Johns Hopkins University Department of Medicine Research Retreat, featuring Jeanne Clark (left), Nisha Maruthur, (middle), and poster presenter May Thu Thu Maw (right).

## DPP-Related Grants



### Family Diabetes Prevention Program Pilot Study

Supported through a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Maya Venkataramani has led efforts to develop and pilot a family-oriented version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (Family DPP).

The Family DPP augments the DPP curriculum (which focuses on adults) with additional child-focused sessions focused on promoting healthy child lifestyle behaviors. The Family DPP was developed in part by incorporating insight from Brancati Center DPP participants. The 12-month Family DPP Pilot Study, with two cohorts of Family DPP participants, launched in October 2022. The lessons learned in this pilot study will be used to further refine the Family DPP intervention and inform the conduct of a larger, more definitive trial examining the effectiveness of the program on improving the health behaviors and health of adult-child dyads.

### Characterizing Individual and Program-Related Factors that Impact Engagement in the Diabetes Prevention Program Among Black/African American Younger Adults

Dr. Maya Venkataramani received a grant in 2022 from the Mid-Atlantic Center for Cardiometabolic Health Equity to conduct a mixed-methods study to characterize factors that impact younger adults' (ages 18 to 35) engagement in diabetes prevention activities, including engagement in the Diabetes Prevention Program. The study involves in-depth interviews of younger adults from Baltimore City and County who were ever referred to the Brancati Center Diabetes Prevention Program that are currently underway. A survey of younger adults in Baltimore City will also be conducted.



# OTHER STUDIES WE SUPPORT

## The Prediabetes Study

The Prediabetes Study is a NIH-funded, 12-month multicenter, non-inferiority, randomized control trial which compares the effectiveness of a fully automated digital diabetes prevention program (Sweetch Health Ltd.) to standard of care human coach-based diabetes prevention programs in reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes among adults with prediabetes. The study will randomize a total of 368 participants over a four-year period to receive either the Sweetch digital health kit or referral to a CDC-recognized lifestyle change program delivered via in-person or via distance learning modalities.

The primary aims of the study are to evaluate whether the Sweetch digital health is at least as effective as human coach DPP on participant attainment of the CDC's benchmarks for type 2 diabetes risk reduction (promoting weight loss, increasing physical activity, and reducing hemoglobin A1C). The Brancati Center is serving as one of the coach-based DPP referral sites to deliver the intervention for the control group.

## DPP Cooks Study

The DPP Cooks study is an NIH-funded K01 career development award to Dr. Julia Wolfson, an Associate Professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The goal of the study is to develop and pilot test a cooking skills intervention to supplement the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). The Brancati Center partnered with Dr. Wolfson on the formative research, including conducting in-depth interviews with past DPP participants that informed the development of the new DPP Cooks intervention.

Subsequently, two Brancati Center DPP cohorts participated in the study, one serving as a control group, and one serving as the intervention group. Those two cohorts completed the yearlong DPP in March 2023. Findings from this study will examine the importance of cooking skills for improving dietary intake and weight loss and will evaluate potentially important modifications to the DPP.

## SHARP Women

With funding from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and following the principles of Community Based Participatory Research, Drs. Geetanjali Chander and Heidi Hutton developed a pilot program to reduce alcohol use and HIV risk among women in Baltimore.

Through partnership with an active community advisory board, the intervention was tailored to addresses not only alcohol use and its intersection with HIV risk and treatment outcomes, but also alcohol's intersection with trauma among women. Piloting of this program began in September 2021 and continued through 2022-2023. Tonya Rosebrough, Brancati Center community health worker, helped participants overcome barriers to reaching their goals related to alcohol use and past trauma.

## C-Raven

C-Raven is an interactive computer-delivered counseling intervention for tobacco smoking cessation. In 2020-2021 a counseling session focused on uptake of pharmacotherapy for tobacco smoking cessation was piloted in the inpatient setting (N=19). The study was expanded in 2022 to the outpatient Johns Hopkins Tobacco Treatment Clinic located at Bayview Hospital and at the Johns Hopkins Broadway Center for Addiction. Recruitment at outpatient clinics began in April 2022. In 2023, the study team received additional funding to: 1) conduct focus groups to develop a shared decision-making tool for low-dose chest CT to screen for lung cancer, and 2) conduct a pilot study of the virtual C-Raven program among people living in public housing with the addition of community health worker intervention. All of these pilot studies were funded by the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF).



## MELVIN B. TUGGLE COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

### History

In 2020, the Brancati Center began managing the Reverend Melvin B. Tuggle East Baltimore Community Excellence Award. The Tuggle Award was established in 2016 to recognize the contributions of Reverend Melvin Tuggle in creating strong community partnerships to address health in East Baltimore. The award recognizes students, residents, and fellows at the Johns Hopkins University who are focused on the health of East Baltimore and who are dedicated to working in partnership with the community.

Pastor Brenda Tuggle hosted this year's awards ceremony at Garden of Prayer Christian Church. It was a wonderful opportunity to honor the important work of the awardees. The next call for award submissions will be announced in February 2024.

### 2023 Awardees

#### **Mamadou Sy, MD - MSPH candidate**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Project: *COVID-19 Vaccination and Outreach in East Baltimore*

#### **HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

#### **Joyline Chepkorir, RN - PhD candidate**

Johns Hopkins School of Nursing  
Project: *Older Women Embracing Life Cancer Education and Awareness Program*

#### **Jeong Jun Kim - MD/PhD candidate**

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
Project: *HEAL Refugee Health and Asylum Collaborative*



### About Reverend Melvin Tuggle

Reverend Melvin Tuggle was the Pastor of the Garden of Prayer Christian Church and Chair of Heart,

Body, and Soul, Inc., a formalized nonprofit representing a collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Schools of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing and Clergy United for Renewal in East Baltimore (CURE). He gave selflessly of his time to support grassroots health promotion and disease prevention in East Baltimore.

Born at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1949, Reverend Tuggle was raised in its shadow, transitioning as a youth with few opportunities to an accomplished leader in public health. His book on how to partner with churches to improve the public's health, *It is Well With My Soul*, offers a template for true community engagement. Published by the American Public Health Association, it serves as a text in many community-based academic courses throughout the country.

Reverend Tuggle passed away in 2018 from complications of diabetes.





CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM!

**Get involved and learn  
more about the Brancati  
Center by contacting:**

**Megan Brown, MBA**  
Program Director

[brancaticenter@jhmi.edu](mailto:brancaticenter@jhmi.edu)  
**410-614-6441**

2024 E. Monument Street  
Room B-326  
Baltimore, MD 21287

# APPENDIX

## Advisory Board Members

### **HAERA HAN, PHD, RN, FAAN**

Professor  
Department of Community-Public Health  
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

### **ELIZABETH JAFFEE, MD**

Dana and Albert “Cubby” Broccoli  
Professor of Oncology,  
Co-Director of the Gastrointestinal  
Cancers Program  
Associate Director for Translational Research,  
Johns Hopkins Medicine

### **REV. WILLIAM JOHNSON JR., MDIV**

Community Chaplain  
Johns Hopkins Health System

### **CALVIN KEENE**

Pastor  
Memorial Baptist Church

### **MICHAEL J. KLAG, MD**

Professor, Former Dean  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School  
of Public Health

### **PRIYA MAMMEN, MD, MPH**

Senior Medical Director, Office of Clinical  
Integrity  
Walgreens

### **TAMMY MAYS**

Housing Stability Coordinator  
Mayor’s Office of Children and  
Family Success

### **DARCY PHELAN-EMRICK, DRPH, MHS**

Chief Epidemiologist, Baltimore City  
Health Department  
Faculty, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
School of Public Health

### **MARSHALL F. PRENTICE, MDIV, DDIV**

Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Baltimore  
Member Strategy Team, Baltimore United in  
Leadership Development (BUILD)  
First President, Clergy United for Renewal in  
East Baltimore (CURE)

### **SAMUEL REDD**

Executive Director  
Operation P.U.L.S.E. (People United to Live in a Safe  
Environment)

### **JAMES SATTERFIELD, PHARM D**

Regional Healthcare Director  
Walgreens

### **MADELEINE SHEA, PHD**

Principal  
Health Management Associates

### **BARRY SOLOMON, MD, MPH**

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

### **BRENDA TUGGLE**

Pastor  
Garden of Prayer Christian Church

### **KISHA WEBSTER**

Director and Founder  
Greenmount West Community Center

### **CRAIG WILLIAMS**

Vice President, Health Innovation  
Johns Hopkins HealthCare



## Brancati Center Team

### Faculty Directors

**JEANNE CLARK, MD, MPH, FACP**  
**Executive Director (2015-present)**

Dr. Clark is the 'Frederick L. Brancati, MD' Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine. She is the Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care. Dr. Clark is a general internist with an ongoing primary care practice and has devoted her career to studying the epidemiology and treatment of obesity and its consequences, especially type 2 diabetes and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Since 2015 she has taken up the work of Dr. Fred Brancati to create innovative collaborations with commercial and community partners to disseminate health promotion programs into communities across the country and to create a health care workforce that is more reflective of and responsive to our communities.

**NISA MARUTHUR, MD, MHS**  
**Director of Community Program Implementation (2015-present)**

Dr. Maruthur is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Nursing at The Johns Hopkins University. She is a general internist with an active primary care practice. She researches diabetes prevention and the individualization of diabetes care. She is committed to the widespread implementation of the Diabetes Prevention Program lifestyle change program, especially in community-based settings. Dr. Maruthur also studies how to improve diabetes prevention in primary care.

**TANJALA S. PURNELL, PHD, MPH, FASN**  
**Director of Education (2021-present)**

Dr. Purnell is an Assistant Professor of Cardiovascular and Clinical Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She holds joint faculty appointments in the Johns Hopkins Departments of Surgery, Health Policy and Management, and Health Behavior and Society. She has more than a decade of expertise focused on implementing patient- and community-engaged initiatives to promote health equity. She has a particular focus on transplantation and cardiometabolic conditions, including kidney disease, hypertension, and diabetes. Her research has helped to shed light on the dual impact of COVID-19 and systemic racism on existing health and health care disparities in the United States.

Dr. Purnell has served in multiple educational leadership roles, where she has facilitated research mentoring opportunities for more than 150 diverse scholars; organized novel seminars for more than 7,000 academic and community members; and developed health equity research methods courses for more than 6,000 learners at Johns Hopkins and other institutions worldwide. She is a four-time recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**MAYA VENKATARAMANI, MD, MPH**  
**Associate Director of Community Program Implementation (2021-present)**

Dr. Venkataramani is a general internist and pediatrician, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She received her medical degree from Johns Hopkins and completed her residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Harvard Brigham and Women's Hospital/Boston Children's Hospital Combined Med-Peds residency program. She then completed a general internal medicine research fellowship at Johns Hopkins, during which time she earned a Master's in Public Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health as a Sommer Scholar.

She is committed to improving the well-being of underserved communities. She provides primary care to the East Baltimore community through her clinical practice. Her research interests include improving the delivery of primary care and preventive services through community-based and family-oriented approaches and her work has included studies on parental health promotion in primary care and the impact of national policies targeting parents on the healthcare use of their children.

## Associate Faculty Members

**ZACKARY BERGER, MD, PHD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**OTIS BRAWLEY, MD**  
Professor of Oncology

**ALEJANDRA ELLISON-BARNES, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**SEUN FALADE-NWULIA, MBBS, MPH**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**KIMBERLY GUDZUNE, MD, MPH**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**HEIDI HUTTON, PHD**  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
and Behavioral Sciences

**DAVID M. LEVINE, MD**  
Professor of Medicine

**KATHLEEN PAGE, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**SELVI RAJAGOPAL, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**MELINDA SAWYER, DRPH, MSN, RN, CNS-BC**  
Vice President, Clinical Quality  
and Patient Safety  
UnitedHealthcare Global

**KATIE SHAW, MD**  
Physician, JHCP

## Brancati Center Staff

**MEGAN BROWN, MBA**  
Program Director

**MOHAMMED ABUSAMAAN, MD, MPH**  
Sr. Data Analyst

**SHANNON ADAMS, CHW**  
Community Outreach Specialist

**JENNIFER BENNETT, MS**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**SAHIRMAYI CHALIMILA, MS, PHARM D**  
Research Data Manager

**NICOLE CRONIN, MA**  
DPP Manager

**ALEXANDRA DO COUTO, MS, CMPC**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**KAT DUSTAN STOKES, CHW**  
Community Outreach Specialist

**DEBRA GAYLES**  
Recruitment Coordinator

**ASHLEY GOOD**  
Community Outreach Specialist

**EMILY GRAUEL, MPH, CHES, CHW**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**CHRISTIN HAYWARD, MS, CHES**  
Behavioral Specialist

**JULIE KURTZ**  
Sr. Administrative Coordinator

**SOPHIE LAUVER, MS, RD, LDN**  
Director of Community DPP

**ABIGAIL MATEO, MD**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**KATHY MICHALSKI, RDN**  
Director of Intervention

**BATYA MOSES, MS**  
Research Coordinator

**PARIS NGUYEN**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**ROSSANA PEREZ**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**TRACY POWELL**  
Community Liaison and Lifestyle Interventionist

**REBECCA PRICE, MS**  
Lifestyle Interventionist

**TONYA ROSEBROUGH, CHW**  
Community Outreach Specialist



## Scientific Dissemination (July 2022 - June 2023)

### Publications

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### Presentations

1. IMPACT OF MEDICALLY-TAILORED MEALS ON CLINICAL OUTCOMES AMONG LOW- INCOME ADULTS WITH DIABETES: A PILOT RANDOMIZED TRIAL. **Jeanne M. Clark**; **May Thu Thu Maw**; Kathy Pettway; Geetanjali Chander; Susan Elias; Sam J. Zisow- McClean; **Nisa Maruthur**; **Raquel C. Greer**. (Control ID #3875122) Abstracts from the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine. *J GEN INTERN MED* 38 (Suppl 2), 81–799 (2023)
2. INFLUENCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION ON EFFECTIVENESS OF AN INTENSIVE LIFESTYLE INTERVENTION. **Mamadou Sy**; Scott J. Pilla; Keshia Baptiste-Roberts; Tiffany L. Gary-Webb; Jessica Yeh; Dhanajay Vaidya; **Jeanne M. Clark** (Control ID #3875163). Abstracts from the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine. *J GEN INTERN MED* 38 (Suppl 2), 81–799 (2023).
3. ALL IN THE FAMILY: BASELINE LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS AND ADULT/PARENT EFFICACY FOR ACHIEVING LIFESTYLE GOALS AMONG ADULT-CHILD DYADS ENROLLED IN A FAMILY DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM PILOT STUDY. **Maya S. Venkataramani**; **Nisa Maruthur**. Abstracts from the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine. *J GEN INTERN MED* 38 (Suppl 2), 81–799 (2023).





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