navigate the complex health care beyond the call of duty to help families in the most underserved African American neighborhoods in Washington, where congregants can be taught about the normal aging process and dementia. In addition, she participates in health fairs throughout the area, which allows her to interact with, educate and provide resources to numerous audiences. Sellers’ eagerness to stay informed on the most current research topics and dementia issues impacting African American families in Washington has given those families hope and confidence in dealing with dementia.

Sharon Sellers has dedicated her work at Johns Hopkins to supporting people with dementia and their care partners in the most underserved African American neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to help families navigate the complex health care system. Her compassion for her families is overwhelming. Whether it’s giving someone a ride to the hospital, making hospital visits or rendering advice on how to secure quality home care services, she will always make time to provide for the needs of her families. African Americans are twice as likely as other ethnic minorities to develop dementia. Sellers has strategically forged relationships with African American churches in Washington, where congregants can be taught about the normal aging process and dementia. In addition, she participates in health fairs throughout the area, which allows her to interact with, educate and provide resources to numerous audiences. Sellers’ eagerness to stay informed on the most current research topics and dementia issues impacting African American families in Washington has given those families hope and confidence in dealing with dementia.

Steven McDonald’s passion is promoting safe sex and preventing the spread of HIV among African American males within Baltimore City. His work involves informing those who identify as at-risk of contracting HIV about PrEP (preexposure prophylaxis) and the benefits of taking one medication daily to maintain a negative HIV status. McDonald doesn’t just provide safe sex education, but also seeks to know and understand each man he encounters. While learning about each person’s interests and passions, he provides positive encouragement to turn those passions into purpose. McDonald’s availability and ongoing dialogue with those he encounters serves as a reminder for them to practice safe sex and to share any other health or personal issues they may be experiencing. African American males have the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS. McDonald’s education on safe sex and HIV prevention to African American males helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Baltimore communities.

Jonathan Grant has demonstrated dedication to improving health care for the African American community since he began his professional training. Since starting at Johns Hopkins Home Care Group, Grant has served the Baltimore community in multiple direct patient care roles. On a daily basis, he helps underserved African Americans manage complex medication regimens while training numerous student pharmacists on how to improve the level of care for vulnerable populations. In addition, Grant has been extensively involved with the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation of Metropolitan Baltimore’s Guide Right/Kappa League program for six years.

The purpose of the Guide Right Program is to mentor and help develop the leadership potential of middle school and high school African American males ranging in age from 13–18 years old. Through this organization, Grant has volunteered hundreds of hours, which include fundraising, mentoring 70 students and accompanying them on college visits. Grant serves as a role model through his hard work, professionalism and commitment to helping the African American community.

Agnes Usoro led the establishment of the Johns Hopkins House Staff Diversity Council (HSDC) and is a tireless advocate for making the HSDC an important and engaged part of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine culture. Under her leadership, the HSDC conducted a “One Day Medical School” for Baltimore City high school students in November 2019. Along with her team, Usoro took 25 students who were mostly from underrepresented groups in Baltimore City and introduced them to what a career in medicine could look like. The students were highly engaged in the morning speaker panels and the afternoon didactics and simulation lab clinical sessions. Usoro’s generosity with her time resulted in a lasting change in how these students view themselves and the personal goals they set for their future. Her leadership as the inaugural president of the HSDC has created a mechanism for our house staff to engage with and serve our surrounding community.

Sharon Sellers
Senior Community Dementia Program Manager
Sibley Memorial Hospital

Steven McDonald
Case Manager
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Agnes Usoro, M.D.
Resident
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Emergency Medicine

Jonathan Grant, Ph.D.
Clinical Coordinator
Johns Hopkins Home Care Group

Michel Severe, FNP-BC
Resident
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Emergency Medicine

Black History Achievers Award
WINNERS

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Understanding the health care challenges that exist within Baltimore communities, Brian Waters has taken a proactive approach to creating content that educates community members about the importance of health care. He strives to cultivate diverse audiences and influencers to help spread educational health care messages throughout the city. Waters also serves as a mentor for students of color and encourages his mentees at his alma mater, Morgan State University, to pursue careers in health care journalism and communications. He also volunteers on a committee working to create a pipeline program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities to improve representation and equity and inclusion in science communications nationwide. Waters’ other volunteer commitments include the Christian Memorial Church Food Pantry and the social media and video production teams at his church, The Church of the Redeemed of the Lord in Baltimore. Waters’ leadership within the community has had an impact on the community and his workplace.

Nathan Irvin’s passion and focus has been treating the most marginalized and underserved patients in the community. He directs the Johns Hopkins Bayview emergency department HIV/hepatitis C (HCV) screening program and spearheaded efforts to initiate medication-assisted treatment for opioid dependence from the emergency department. He has extensively studied and contributed to programs aimed at decreasing gun violence, which disproportionately affects African American youth. Furthermore, Irvin works to address the trauma experienced by individuals living in urban areas. His work has been presented on a national stage, and he is an influencer in the ED and the health system at large, leading to changes at local, state and national levels. Other community involvement includes grant-funded research, in which Irvin engages with the community, schools and the health system to better understand and respond to violence and trauma. His HIV/HCV screening program has screened tens of thousands of patients, and partners with community health workers to link community members to treatment. Irvin’s clinical, academic and community activities have improved health care for all.

Adrian Mosley has dedicated her life and career to improving health care for African Americans throughout Baltimore City. Most recently, Mosley founded the Faith and Food Program, which has traveled to African American churches throughout Baltimore. Through this program, Mosley leads worshippers in a special nutrition program aimed at helping people connect with their faith, their health and their heritage by learning about and eating the foods their ancestors ate. Mosley also promotes the African Heritage Diet Pyramid, a healthy eating model followed by African American ancestors. This model promotes a plant-based diet, fewer animal products and no processed food. Mosley also works with researchers and clinicians on issues of health disparities in the neighborhoods surrounding The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Another project she founded is Safe in the Salon, a program that helps beauty salon workers identify victims of domestic violence. Mosley also spearheaded the program, “You Gotta Have Heart,” which involves local churches in training community residents and health ministries in lifesaving techniques. It’s clear that Mosley’s passion for community and health care has left a lasting footprint in Baltimore City.