

Black History Month Achievers Awards



WINNERS



Chrystal Green, M.Ed.
*Assistant Director of Community Affairs
Johns Hopkins Health System*

For the past year, Chrystal Green has served as a member of the COVID-19 Community Education Task Force and the Medical-Religious Partnership: community partnerships that have provided key information, recommendations, guidelines and resources to the people of Baltimore. The Task Force formed a partnership with the NAACP that sent a mobile sound truck into communities with low vaccination rates to share messages about COVID-19 safety, vaccinations, and vaccine clinic locations and dates. The information and recommendations provided by the Medical-Religious Partnership guided the reopening of 20 churches, mosques and synagogues in the Baltimore area. As a member of the COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Team, Chrystal provided site location assistance and engaged with community partners to receive referrals.

In her capacity as assistant director of community affairs for The Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Medicine, Chrystal's primary goal is to forge partnerships on behalf of Johns Hopkins and assist with allocating resources to the community. She maintains these relations and connections by acting as a liaison with community partners and, at times, by working in the field to take resources to them. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, she has managed a weekly food access program that has provided more than 6.5 million meals and provided 100,000 masks and other personal protective equipment as well as health information to the East Baltimore community. Chrystal's connection to East Baltimore is personal, as she was born and raised there. She is dedicated to advocating to bring education, health care and public safety resources into this community, and to have them reach all in the community regardless of age, ability, race or ethnicity.



Faresha Sims, C.R.N.A.
*Nurse Anesthetist
The Johns Hopkins Hospital*

Faresha Sims is one of only 1%–3% of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the U.S. who are Black. She is meticulous and thoughtful when caring for patients entrusted to her before and during their procedures. She is empathetic, and is not unaware of the impact and comfort her presence brings to those in the community who may have concerns about their care. Faresha continues to set high standards for herself, prioritizes patient care and encourages others on her team to do so as well.

In the community, Faresha is involved with several outreach programs such as the Emerging Healthcare Leaders mentoring program, the From Jump Rope to Stethoscope community outreach program and the SciKids organization. She shares her passion for health care by mentoring African American youth to become health care workers. She is a lifetime member of the American Society of Professionals in Patient Safety and is vice chair of the Virginia Commonwealth University Alumni Association.

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LaToya Mobley, L.C.S.W.-C.
*Pediatric Clinical Social Worker
The Johns Hopkins Hospital*

In her role as a pediatric social worker, LaToya Mobley's work focuses on mitigating racial disparities in medical care and treatment for African American patients and families. She does this through her advocacy efforts and by supporting people as they navigate the complexities of the health care system. She focuses on keeping social determinants of health at the forefront of health care planning and decision-making for patients and their families. LaToya has participated in two rounds of the Pediatric Integrated Care Collaborative to focus on trauma-informed care in urban communities as well as to address racial justice and trauma in pediatric health settings. She focuses her work in diversity and inclusion on addressing microaggressions and unconscious bias that is sometimes hidden in everyday practices.

In her volunteer work in the community, LaToya supervises and mentors graduate level social work students, teaching them about patients, families and social determinants of health in Baltimore. She is a founding member of the Sistahchicks One Heart Foundation, which spearheads local drives and organizes events for marginalized populations, and she's partnered with other local organizations to support community soup kitchens. LaToya is involved with the spirit campaign at the Harriet Lane primary and subspecialty care clinics at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Over the past eight years, in partnership with Johns Hopkins' Community Connections program, this group has worked to ensure that children and families with limited resources are provided with gifts during the holiday season. To expand her outreach in the community, LaToya actively explores and forms relationships with local community organizations.



Olukayode Hugh Fatodu, R.P.H., M.B.A.
*Associate Vice President, Pharmacy
Johns Hopkins HealthCare*

A registered pharmacist, Olukayode Hugh Fatodu successfully leads a team that provides pharmacy services to Johns Hopkins HealthCare health plan members. "He seeks and values input from colleagues, staff and members. He is sensitive to their needs, and inclusive when developing strategies for clinical initiatives or while addressing challenges in a complex profession in a constant state of change," says Marketa Wills, chief diversity officer, Johns Hopkins HealthCare. Maintaining a keen understanding of pharmaceutical processes and drug properties, Hugh uses that knowledge to improve the health care and health outcomes of underserved communities.

Hugh has co-authored and published several articles in which research has identified disparities not only among African Americans but also in underserved communities. His areas of focus have included Medicaid recipients, diabetes, hypertension and affordability. Through these publications, Hugh remains committed to research and discovery and improving health care and health outcomes. He is an active member of his church, impacting the community through his kindness and generosity. He also encourages and leads his team in participating in volunteering opportunities and activities.

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FINALISTS



**Adrienne Scott,
M.D.**
*Associate Professor of
Ophthalmology
Johns Hopkins
University School of
Medicine*

Adrienne Scott has conducted pivotal research on retinopathy in patients who have sickle cell disease, which largely affects the African American demographic. Her research, which entails understanding the link between sickle cell disease and eye health, has led to improvements in clinical outcomes. Adrienne conducted instrumental research on health disparities in ophthalmology, and is a leader in this field. In her clinical practice, research and teaching, she assesses innovative ways to diagnose sickle cell retinopathy, leading to early detection and prevention of vision loss.

Adrienne is a leader at Wilmer and nationally in efforts to improve diversity in ophthalmology. In the past five years, her efforts have contributed to the increase in diversity in the ophthalmology residency program. She is a role model of professionalism and collegiality to students and to her colleagues. Along with a group of medical students, she participates in community screenings through her sickle cell retinopathy clinics. Adrienne is chair of the Diversity Committee at Wilmer Eye Institute, and has mentored countless medical students, inspiring them to enter the ophthalmology field.



Denise Morris
*Administrative
Operations Manager
Johns Hopkins
Community Physicians
at Sibley*

Denise Morris, an administrative operations manager at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians at Sibley Memorial Hospital, consistently strives to develop and implement improvements in patient communication, staff concerns and office workflow. Known for graciously going above and beyond in serving as a resource for her team, she is described as a “resolution finder,” and through this reflects Johns Hopkins’ core values of excellence and discovery. Denise’s leadership is evident through her introduction of new workflows that improve the patient experience. She works closely with clinicians in the practice to ensure patients are scheduled accurately and quickly assisted when changes are requested.

With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, Denise held community vaccination events in Wards 3, 5 and 7 in Washington, D.C. These locations were chosen because most of the residents are African American, and they may not have the resources or transportation to obtain the vaccine. She worked on most Saturdays over a three-month period, helping community residents register and check in for their vaccination appointments. She finds joy in directly helping to improve the community in which she lives and is a part of.



**Evangeline
Watson-Naar**
*Veterinary Technician
Johns Hopkins
University School of
Medicine*

For more than 20 years, Evangeline Watson-Naar has been a veterinary technician in the Ludwig Center for Cancer Genetics and Therapeutics, a world-renowned cancer research team at Johns Hopkins. As the only veterinary technician at the center, she is primarily responsible for experiments using small animals to investigate a variety of novel therapeutic approaches for cancer. Her research activities — which often involve more than 100 animals and require a substantial amount of time, effort and commitment — are aimed at developing new cancer therapies that will directly benefit patients and improve patient survival, especially among African Americans. She is devoted to cancer research and has consistently had a high-quality job performance rating for the past 20 years. Some of the therapies tested in animals are now being tested in human clinical trials. Her research efforts have earned her authorship in several publications, including two published in 2020 in the prestigious journals *Science* and *Science Immunology*. The publications were also highlighted by a number of news outlets.

In addition to her tremendous research efforts at Johns Hopkins, Evangeline devotes her spare time to improving the lives of others through her volunteer work. Over the past five years, she regularly spent eight hours per week taking care of elderly and disabled individuals in her community. She works with people who are developmentally challenged through The Arc Baltimore on weekends. These efforts exemplify her willingness and dedication to make a real difference in the African American community.