



INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE CLUSTER TO EXAMINE THE BIOLOGICAL AND IMMUNOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE AT THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND ANCESTRY

LEADS:

Dr. Ashani Weeraratna, Ph.D., *Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, EV McCollum Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Associate Director for Laboratory Research at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.*

Dr. Elizabeth Jaffee, M.D., FAACR, FACP, FAAAS, FAIO, *The Dana and Albert "Cubby" Broccoli Professor of Oncology, Deputy Director, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, Co-Director of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program*

RECRUITING:

3 faculty: all levels

ABOUT THE CLUSTER

Health disparities in cancer research highlight the uneven distribution of cancer's impact in terms of incidence, prevalence, treatment results, and general healthcare quality across various demographic groups. These disparities arise from a mix of factors such as socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, geographical location, and systemic obstacles. Tackling these disparities is vital for ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or situation, has equal access to cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment. In the United States, African, Indigenous, and Hispanic populations experience a greater rate of cancer fatalities. Recent years have seen a growth in efforts to comprehend the intricate nature of these cancer health disparities. Our plan is to use a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to broaden our understanding by investigating both socio-environmental and biological factors that contribute to these disparities. Our objective is to determine the socio-environmental drivers of cancer inequalities and how these differences at the population level impact biological processes. We aim to leverage this knowledge to offer effective care for cancer patients of all races.

Johns Hopkins University is uniquely positioned for this endeavor. With its esteemed Bloomberg School of Public Health, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, and a vast network of experts, Johns Hopkins has been leading the charge in understanding and reducing health disparities in cancer. Our multidisciplinary strategy and cooperative environment allow researchers and clinicians to examine the intricate relationship between genetic, environmental, social, and behavioral factors in cancer health disparities. Moreover, Johns Hopkins' diverse patient base, which includes individuals from various backgrounds and communities, presents a special opportunity to study and tackle disparities in cancer occurrence, treatment outcomes, and survivorship.

ABOUT THE FANNIE GASTON-JOHANSSON FACULTY OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

The Fannie Gaston-Johansson Faculty of Excellence Program is part of a \$50 million investment that focuses on the recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty who demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence as part of JHU's Second Roadmap on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The initiative will bring 30 scholars committed to inclusive excellence to Johns Hopkins University, with a concentration on areas where diversity among faculty has lagged and an emphasis on recruiting scholars in science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

FANNIE GASTON-
JOHANSSON

FACULTY OF
EXCELLENCE
PROGRAM



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