



## WELCOME NETWORK MEMBERS AND VISITORS!

**OUR MISSION:** Reduce racial disparities in advance care planning  
Improve the health care experiences and outcomes of African-Americans  
Engage in community-led research, academic collaboration, and intentional conversation

**OUR NETWORK:** Academics, clergy, clinicians, laypersons, and researchers

### H

Highlight the current projects of Network members and share upcoming events for continued engagement

### E

Examine current data and trends used in advance care planning generally, and used for African-Americans

### L

List opportunities for collaboration between clergy, clinicians, researchers, and laypersons

### P

Provide a space to discuss how our work disseminates into the African-American community-at-large

**OUR INFORMATION:** To join or connect with the Network, please email [AA-ACP-PC-Network@div.duke.edu](mailto:AA-ACP-PC-Network@div.duke.edu).

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## NETWORK MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS THIS QUARTER

CONGRATULATIONS, [DANETTA, FARR, FAYRON, GLORIA A., KAREN B., KAREN M., KHALIAH, LAVERA, LAUREN, MARISSETTE, PATRICK, AND WARREN!](#)



### [Danetta Sloan, PhD, MSW, MA](#)

*Assistant Scientist*

Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health



Dr. Sloan is a 2022-2023 [Bloomberg School of Public Health](#) Excellence in Public Health Practice Award Winner. In collaboration with [SOURCE](#), the community engagement and service-learning center for the JHU Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine, she received the award for Excellence in Baltimore Public Health Practice for her Project titled, “Advancing the Development of Faith-Centered, Community-Based Advanced Care Planning.” She partnered with local pastor, Rev. Doris Gaskins, to provide palliative care information and services, and health care decision-making support, to African-American individuals, families, and communities. Dr. Sloan received this award from Bloomberg Dean MacKenzie, Vice Dean Sharfstein, and Assistant Dean Resnick.

### [Farr Curlin, MD](#)

*Josiah C. Trent Professor of Medical Humanities  
Co-Director, Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative  
Duke Divinity School and Duke School of Medicine*



Dr. Curlin was a [2023 Keynote Speaker](#) at the [Conference on Medicine and Religion](#) in Columbus, Ohio. He delivered his address, “Secular Medicine in the Saeculum: An Honored but Humble Servant,” in reflection to this year’s conference theme: an invitation to consider the boundaries of medicine—beyond what can be done to what ought to be done—by following the central theme of how medicine seeks to care for souls.



### [Fayron Epps, PhD, MSN, RN](#)

*Assistant Professor*

Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing



Professor Epps’ work with the [Faith Village Research Lab](#) was featured in the May 2023 Emory Online News [“Community in Action”](#) section. Established by Epps in 2019, the Lab aims to provide African American caregivers, families, and faith communities with the tools they need to more easily and comfortably access care, education, and research resources related to dementia. The Faith Village Research Lab’s [Alter™](#) program currently partners with more than 45 African-American faith communities in 10 states.





**Gloria Anderson, PhD, MSW**

*Founder and President*  
Heart Tones™



Professor Anderson is celebrating 35 years of inspiring hearts and encouraging souls through her project, [Heart Tones™](#). What began as a personal and spiritual call to share inspirational messages through greeting cards and poetic prints evolved into a ministry of sharing messages of hope, peace, and purpose through writing and educational workshops on end-of-life care.

**Karen Bullock, PhD, MSSW**

*Louise McMahon Ahearn Endowed Professor*  
Boston College School of Social Work



Professor Bullock was the [2023 Commencement Speaker](#) for the [Columbia School of Social Work](#). Columbia Dean, Melissa Begg, shared: “I have had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Bullock on several occasions, and each time, I am in awe. Her commitment to equity and passion for social justice are remarkable, and I know her words at commencement will resonate deeply with everyone in our community.” Professor Bullock’s keynote address took place on May 16.



**Karen Moss, PhD, MSN, RN**

*Assistant Professor*  
The Ohio State University College of Nursing and Medicine



Dr. Moss was a [2022 Sojourns Scholar](#) with [Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program](#). This competitive grant supports initial pilot testing of Dr. Moss’ intervention, “Pair 2 Care: Peer Support for Caregivers of African Americans Living with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias,” as well as her development as a national leader. This intervention was created in collaboration with a multi-stakeholder group of current and former African American caregivers, health care providers, and community leaders.

**Khaliyah Johnson, MD**

*Division Chief, Pediatric Palliative Care*  
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta



Dr. Johnson was a [Panelist](#) on the 2023 Winter Health Summit & Expo presented by [Black Health Matters](#) (BHM), a leading communications company that provides inclusive health and wellness information to the Black community. Partnering with top physicians, community advocates, and health companies, BHM’s ultimate goal is to help Black Americans cut through the confusion and feel empowered on their health journey. Dr. Johnson’s presentation, “Taking Control of Our Health: Empowering Our Communities through Advancements in Science,” offered a perspective on how people of color can take advantage of what science has to offer by participating in clinical trials.







**LaVera Crawley, MD, MPH, MDiv**

*System Vice President for Pastoral and Spiritual Care*  
CommonSpirit Health

CommonSpirit

**GeriPal** | A Geriatrics and Palliative Care Podcast  
for Every Healthcare Professional

Dr. Crawley was a [Panelist](#) on a [GeriPal](#) podcast on the worth of chaplaincy in the clinical setting. GeriPal is a podcast platform that brings experts in geriatrics, hospice, and palliative care to the table to discuss recently published research, controversies in policy, and innovations under consideration. Dr. Crawley was part of three-person panel discussing whether randomized control trials (RCT) are needed to establish the worth of chaplaincy. To listen, or view the transcript, click [here](#).

**Lauren Van Scoy, MD**

*Physician*

Penn State Health



PennState Health

**GeriPal** | A Geriatrics and Palliative Care Podcast  
for Every Healthcare Professional

Dr. Van Scoy was a [Panelist](#) on a [GeriPal](#) podcast on improving equity in advance care planning. GeriPal is a podcast platform that brings experts in geriatrics, hospice, and palliative care to the table to discuss recently published research, controversies in policy, and innovations under consideration. Dr. Van Scoy was part of a three-person panel discussing whether clinicians are assessing the right outcomes in end-of-life preparation. While completion of an advance directive [via signature and scans into an electronic medical record (EMR)] is a quantifiable goal for research trials, the qualitative and mixed-methods approaches, based on continuous communication, are more successful, though less measurable. To listen, or view the transcript, click [here](#).



**Marisette Hasan, BSN, RN**

*President and CEO*

The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care

**ARIADNE LABS**

Ms. Hasan is a [Keynote Speaker](#) at the [Ariadne Lab's](#) 2023 Serious Illness Care Program's Inaugural Virtual Summit. Ariadne Labs is a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital at the [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#) that creates systems-level solutions for better care. Ms. Hasan's address, "Forces for Change: The Intersection of Health Equity, Policy, and Community Engagement," will focus on improving clinical culture and connecting the community of serious illness care practitioners.

African American  
Advance Care Planning &  
Healthy Living Through Faith  
Extending the conversation across life

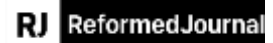
[www.livingwellanddyingfaithfully.com](http://www.livingwellanddyingfaithfully.com)



**Patrick T. Smith, PhD, MDiv, MA**

*Associate Research Professor of Theological Ethics and Bioethics  
Duke Divinity School*

Professor Smith is a [2023 Fellow in the Atlantic Coast Conference \(ACC\) Academic Leaders Network](#) for his work in moral philosophy, bioethics, and the intersection of religious social ethics and health inequities. He will serve alongside four other Duke faculty members in this Network that creates distinctive learning and collaborative opportunities to further develop leaders in a range of dimensions, in ways that no single university can accomplish on its own. Professor Smith is also a [2023 Hastings Center Fellow](#) for his outstanding scholarship in the fields of healthcare ethics and theological ethics. He is one of 12 scholars selected annually for his informed scholarship of complex ethical issues in health care, life sciences research, and the technology.



**Warren Kinghorn, MD, ThD, MTS**

*Esther Colliflower Associate Research Professor of Pastoral and Moral Theology  
Co-Director, Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative  
Duke Divinity School*

Dr. Kinghorn was quoted in [Reformed Journal](#), a digital publication of Christian writings that engages readers in the world in a Reformed way. The 2022 article, "Anxious America: How to Faithfully Respond to the Mental Health Crisis" by Jeff Haanen, reports:

*So, what's causing the growing mental health crisis? Many point to a loneliness epidemic. NPR reports 60% of Americans are lonely, which the pandemic perpetuated when workplaces and schools were shut down, impacting a generation of young people. The inability to gather during COVID led to fewer in-person relationships, sapping people's resilience to stress.*

*Many also point to heightened social tensions in the past two years. 'In our culture, we've seen increasing political and social polarization, increasing awareness of sexual assault and racial violence and inequity, and we've had two very polarizing election cycles,' says Kinghorn, a psychiatrist and co-director of the Theology, Medicine and Culture program at Duke University. 'Our experience has been that mental health clinicians are in high demand, especially since the pandemic.'" Kinghorn notes colleges and universities are reporting a significant increase in demand for student mental health services.*

Read the full article [here](#).

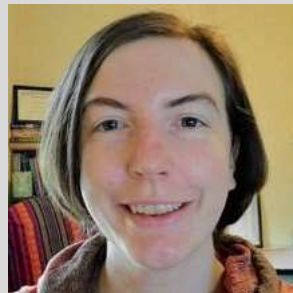
REACH OUT WITH A NOTE OR WORD OF CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NETWORK MEMBERS!

**-- PROJECT HIGHLIGHT --***Project Talk*

**Penn State Health**  
Hershey, PA



**Reflections from**  
Lauren Van Scoy, MD



and  
Heather Costigan

Less than 25% of individuals in underserved communities have completed an advance directive or talked about their end-of-life wishes with a health care provider. [Project Talk](#), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research project, aims to engage these communities (e.g., ethnic and racial minorities, rural populations, and low-income areas) in advance care planning and empower individuals to start conversations about their end-of-life goals and wishes. Led by [Lauren Van Scoy](#), Critical Care Physician at Penn State College of Medicine, and with the support of [Heather Costigan](#), Research Project Manager for Project Talk, this five-year research study evaluates the impact of three Conversation Tools on engagement with hopes of facilitating high-quality, enjoyable conversations that initiate subsequent actions towards documenting participants' preferences.

The three Conversation Tools assessed:

1. [Hello](#)

An end-of-life conversation game that prompts players to share their values, goals, and beliefs about end-of-life issues, using a booklet of 32 questions.

2. [The Conversation Project Starter Guide](#)

An 11-page guide with open-ended prompts that encourages people to talk about their wishes for end-of-

life care, share their wishes, consider their values and preferences, and rank their priorities.

3. [Table Topics](#)

A popular, commercially available game that consists of question cards to prompt social engagement through light-hearted and fun conversations.

Dr. Van Scoy credits much of Project Talk's success to early support from the late [Dr. Richard Payne](#), Palliative Care Physician and the John B. Francis Chair of Bioethics at the Center for Practical Bioethics, who advocated strongly for her 2015 proposal to the [Parker B. Francis Fellowship](#). Her proposal was the first fellowship funded by the [Francis Family Foundation](#) surrounding end-of-life values and preferences. Dr. Van Scoy's work here led to Project Talk's collaboration between the Penn State College of Medicine, the Hospice Foundation of America, and the University of Kentucky College of Communication and Information.

Collaborating since 2018, the teams published a [national study](#) in the May 2020 JAMA Network issue about the conversation game, *Hello*—funded by the John and Wauna Harman Foundation—that was foundational to the creation of the full Project Talk Trial. In September 2020, the [National Institute of Minority and Health Disparities](#), one of 27 institutes of the NIH, awarded Project Talk \$3.5 million to support its clinical trial research. This was the first grant funded by the NIH for game research related to advance care planning.

Individuals and community-based organizations are encouraged to apply as hosts for advance care planning events. Selected recipients receive training, resources, and a \$300 stipend to support marketing and expenses. For information about becoming a host, see this [flyer](#).

To learn more about Project Talk, join the [mailing list](#) or send an email to: [info@projecttalktrial.org](mailto:info@projecttalktrial.org).



**Co-Investigator to Project Talk:**

[Amy Tucci](#)

President and CEO

Hospice Foundation of America



[www.livingwellanddyingfaithfully.com](http://www.livingwellanddyingfaithfully.com)

## UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

(FREE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

### Ariadne Lab's Serious Illness Care Program

Live Virtual Summit  
Driving Equity in Serious Illness Communication and Care

June 13-14, 2023  
\$400 course fee

[Danetta Sloan](#), [Karen Bullock](#), and [Marisette Hasan](#)  
presenting.

Register [here](#).

### University of Alabama at Birmingham Center for Palliative and Supportive Care

Virtual Training  
Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)  
Immersion Training: A Social Justice Approach

July 17-20, 2023 • 10:00 am – 4:30 pm each day  
\$1,000 training fee  
CE/CME credit available.

Application Deadline: June 6  
Learn more [here](#).

### 2023 Annual Grantmakers in Aging Conference

In-Person  
Amplifying Investment in Aging

October 17-20, 2023 • Austin, TX  
\$895<sup>+</sup> + lodging

Host Sponsor: [St. David's Foundation](#)

Register [here](#).

## STAY TUNED!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Richard Payne Award and Lectureship in Faith, Justice, and Health Care will be held at Duke Divinity School in November 2023. This lecture will coincide with the final Network meeting for the year. This year's award recipient and keynote speaker is [Dayna Bowen Matthew, JD, PhD](#), Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. More information to come!

## ARTICLES SHARED THIS QUARTER

(SHARED BY...)

A Mixed-Methods Formative Evaluation of a Dementia Friendly Congregation Program for Black Churches (Epps)  
([link](#))

Disparities and Racism Experienced Among Older African Americans Nearing End of Life (Aaron, Elk)  
([link](#))

Experiences of Black American Dementia Caregivers During the Covid-19 Pandemic (Epps)  
([link](#))

Healthy Ties: Reflections on the Virtue of Solidarity in Medicine (Smith)  
([link](#))

"I Don't See Color" Means You Don't See Me (Hasan)  
([link](#))

Missing the Mark: The Complexity of African American Dementia Family Caregiving (Moss)  
([link](#))

## NEWSLETTERS

Triannual newsletters emailed in January, May, and September.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

(MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

### SPRING '23 NETWORK MEETING

THURSDAY, 5/25

3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

(1-HOUR ZOOM MEETING)

--(NO SUMMER MEETING)--

### FALL '23 NETWORK MEETING

OCTOBER – TBD

(1-HOUR ZOOM MEETING)

### LECTURES

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, 11/16-17, 2023

5:30 PM EST

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL RICHARD PAYNE AWARD  
AND LECTURESHIP IN  
FAITH, JUSTICE, AND HEALTH CARE  
DUKE UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NC

IF YOU HAVE:

PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE,

RELEASED A BOOK,

GAVE AN INTERVIEW,

ACCEPTED AN AWARD

RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING,

CHANGED JOBS,

OR

HAVE AN EVENT TO SHARE,

PLEASE EMAIL DETAILS TO THE  
NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR AT:

[AA-ACP-PC-Network@div.duke.edu](mailto:AA-ACP-PC-Network@div.duke.edu)