

## **2022 CEnR Symposium Series:**

**"Strengthening Community-Academic Research Relationships"**

Program 1:

### **LGBTQ Health Equity**

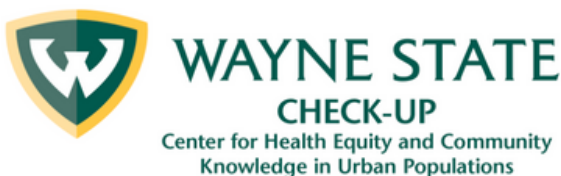
Wednesday, September 21

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

# Acknowledgments

This symposium series is supported by the Office of the Vice President for Research at Wayne State University and sponsored by Wayne State University's Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations and Karmanos Cancer Institute's Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement.

The Wayne State University & Karmanos Cancer Institute Community Engaged Research Symposium Directors and Planning Committee wish to thank everyone who contributed their time and effort in making this event possible, including:



OFFICE OF CANCER HEALTH EQUITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Land Acknowledgment & The Legacy of Native Peoples

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong (Waa-we-yaa-tih-nong), also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-daa-waa), Potawatomi (Pow-tuh-waa-tuh-mee), and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit.

## Radical Welcome

### **Welcoming Transgender/Non-binary/Gender Nonconforming folks**

(Adapted from the 2019 Creating Change--National LGBT Task Force—conference program)

To create radical welcome for members of the Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender Nonconforming (Transgender, Transsexual, genderqueer and more) communities please remember that a person's purposeful gender expression or external appearance may not match their internal gender identity.

About pronouns:

- In this space, we are committed to not making assumptions about anyone's gender identity based on the way they look, sound, or behave.
- Ask "What pronouns do you use?"
- When in doubt use a person's name or gender neutral pronouns, for example, "they/them/theirs".
- Please call people what they ask you to call them and use the pronouns that people ask you to use.
- Remind yourself that some people may be expressing gender differently than the last time you encountered them.
- When you make a mistake about someone's pronoun, make the correction and move on.

Showing up:

Please listen to transgender people's needs and stories when they are volunteered. Respect people's privacy and boundaries and do not ask questions that would wouldn't ask of anyone else.

# Introduction

Thank you for attending the Wayne State University and Karmanos Cancer Institute 2022 Annual Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Symposium!

In 2018, 2019, and 2020, the CEnR Symposium convened hundreds of community members and community-based organizations, as well as WSU faculty, staff, and students. The symposium, highlighted existing community-academic research partnerships, developed new partnerships, and provided opportunities to discuss the benefits and challenges of CEnR and strategies for conducting this work.

In 2022, we're doing things a little differently. This year's meeting instead of one symposium, we have coordinated three mini-symposia with the objective of developing three new, long-term research and programming networks:

- LGBTQ Health Equity Network
- Black Health and Racial Equity Network
- Middle Eastern, North African, Refugee, and Immigrant (MENARI) Health Equity Network

These networks will serve as ongoing workgroups that will meet on a regular basis following the symposia in which community and academic partners will collaborate on key areas identified during the symposia with the support of pilot funding.

View the past CEnR symposia [here](#).

Register for our upcoming symposia [here](#).

## **Program 2: Black Health and Racial Equity**

October 25, 26, and 27

6:00 - 7:30 pm

## **Program 3: Middle Eastern and North African (MENA), Refugee, and Immigrant Health Equity**

November 1 - 2

5:00 - 8:00 pm

## **Community Engaged Research (CEnR)**

Community-engaged research (CEnR) is a process in which academic researchers work collaboratively with and through community members to identify and address issues affecting the well-being of communities. CEnR has been endorsed and recommended by many but applied by relatively few. This one-day symposium will provide opportunities to learn about and discuss the benefits gained from CEnR, as well as its challenges and strategies for conducting this CEnR successfully. This meeting will also be an opportunity to learn from and network with community members who have identified research priorities for their communities. Topics that will be addressed will include the following:

- How does community engagement contribute to stronger science?
- What are successful models of community-engaged scholarship that academic researchers can follow?
- How can academic institutions support community-engaged scholarship among faculty?
- What are the health research priorities within local Detroit communities?
- What kinds of local opportunities are there for community-engaged research?

## **The Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP)**

CHECK-UP was established in 2021 with the support of the WSU Office of the Vice President of Research (OVPR) to provide an infrastructure to accelerate partnerships between metropolitan Detroit communities and WSU's schools, colleges, centers, and departments to identify, investigate, and act upon the barriers and bridges to health equity in the region. CHECK-UP is driven by the imperative that WSU prioritize and promote shared leadership with community stakeholders in medical and behavioral research. Methodologies that build engagement and participation are central to CHECK-UP because of their promise in reducing health disparities, increasing the public relevance of WSU's research, and expanding the reach of scientific discoveries throughout community at large. CHECK-UP leadership includes Hayley Thompson, PhD, Director, Carrie Leach, PhD, Associate Director of Community Inclusion, and Lisa Braddix, MPH, Steering Committee Chair.

## **The Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI) Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE)**

OCHECE was established in 2017 with the overarching goal of connecting communities to KCI's science and KCI's science to communities. OCHECE coordinates community outreach and engagement activities across KCI's 46-county catchment area in Michigan, home to 6.7 million residents and is guided by a participatory research approach in which community stakeholders are actively engaged in research prioritization, implementation, and dissemination. Among OCHECE's many programs is Michigan Cancer HealthLink. Established in 2016, HealthLink is a network of Cancer Action Councils (CACs) organized as neighborhood-based and population-driven groups of cancer survivors, caregivers, and advocates who have been historically excluded from meaningful research collaborations. This infrastructure has provided a mechanism for community stakeholders to inform KCI's research agenda. Brittany Dowe, MPH, serves as OCHECE's Director and Hayley Thompson, PhD, serves as faculty supervisor.

**Wayne State University & Karmanos Cancer Institute  
Fourth Annual Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Symposium:  
“Strengthening Community-Academic Research Relationships”  
Program 1: LGBTQ Health Equity**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- 11:00 AM**      **Radical Welcome**  
Hayley S. Thompson, PhD
- Showing Up**  
Carrie Leach, PhD
- Symposium Overview**  
LGBTQ Health Equity Symposium Planning Committee Chairs: Keith Hughes & Rick S. Zimmerman
- 11:10 AM**      **Introductions & Icebreakers**  
Keith Hughes & Rick S. Zimmerman
- 12:00 PM**      **Social Determinants of Health**
- Data and Research: **Lloyd Allen**, PhD, MSW, WSU School of Social Work  
Community Experience: **Keith Hughes**, City of Detroit Health Department
- 12:15 PM**      Action-focused Breakout Rooms
- 12:45 PM**      **Policy**
- Data and Research: **Heather Walter-McCabe**, JD, MSW, WSU Law School & School of Social Work  
Community Experience: **Jerron Totten**, LGBT Detroit
- 1:00 PM**      Action-focused Breakout Rooms

# Agenda

- 1:30 PM**      **Access & Equity**  
Data and Research: **Sarah Kiperman**, PhD, MEd, WSU College of Education  
Community Experience: **Lon'Dyn Hudson**, Detroit Community Health Connections
- 1:45 PM**      Action-focused Breakout Rooms
- 2:15 PM**      **Major Health Needs**  
Data and Research: **Rick S. Zimmerman**, PhD, MS, WSU College of Nursing  
Community Experience: **Benji Raap**, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- 2:30 PM**      Action-focused Breakout Rooms
- 3:00 PM**      **Agenda Setting**
- 3:55 PM**      **Evaluation & Wrap-up**



### **Keith Hughes, Symposium Co-Chair**

Keith Hughes is a Sr. Public Health Educator with the Detroit Health Department EHE Initiative and Chair of the Black Treatment Advocates Network. He has been working in the field of HIV for 14 years with a strong passion for HIV Prevention. He has facilitated groups for PLWH and has provided Early Intervention Services to help with individuals navigating HIV Care. He gained the opportunity to experience the African American HIV University, which is under the coordination of the Black AIDS Institute. He has a strong presence and relationships within the LGBT Community and his vision is to provide a space for Black/Brown people to engage in planning bodies and entities that provide services to those most impacted. After completing the cohort, he launched the Black Treatment Advocates Network in 2017, which focuses on improving visibility around the needs of Black and Brown people in Detroit. He has attended and networked at many National Conferences like USCHA, The Biomedical Prevention Summit, and other HIV/STI related conferences to improve his knowledge and awareness to the needs of his community. His role now with the Detroit Health Department is to support organizations funded to provide services under the scope of the National HIV Strategy to ending the HIV Epidemic. His goal is to provide safer and stigma-free spaces for community to access services in spaces designed for community.



### **Rick S. Zimmerman, PhD, Symposium Co-Chair**

Rick Zimmerman is currently a Professor and the Associate Dean for Research in the Wayne State University College of Nursing in Detroit. He is a prevention scientist who received his PhD in medical sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research has focused on models of behavior change; HIV, STD, and teen pregnancy prevention; and understanding and improving the validity of self-reports of sensitive behaviors. His current funded research is an NIH project developing and evaluating a micro-economic intervention to reduce HIV and violence in transgender women and a SAMHSA project to evaluate the impact of programs to prevent and treat substance use disorder and HIV.





## Planning Committee

### Heather Walter-McCabe, JD, MSW

Professor Heather Walter-McCabe holds a joint appointment at Wayne State University Law School and Wayne State University School of Social Work. She began her career as a social worker at a high acuity pediatric tertiary care hospital in the Midwest working with families whose children had significant medical needs. After law school, she directed a public health research program examining the impact of firearm violence in Indiana. She later served as the executive director of the William H. and Christine H. Hall Center for Law and Health at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law before joining the faculty at the Indiana University School of Social Work. Her research is done at the intersection of law, social work, and public health. Her research translates complex legal issues and research findings across multiple professions to make the information accessible for use by practitioners and advocates in improving population health.



As a part of this work, Walter-McCabe was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health Law Teaching Fellow from 2014-16. Most recently she is leading research examining law and policy impacting LGBTQ health equity and well-being. She has published in traditional peer-reviewed academic journals and law reviews and has also been sought by media to explain core issues of public health policy. Walter-McCabe serves on the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association, the Board of Directors for the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy and is a contributing editor to the journal Social Work.

### A. Nzere Kwabena

A. Nzere Kwabena (formally Curtis Lipscomb) has spent years moving throughout the LGBTQ world in different capacities. He's worked as the Executive Director of LGBT Detroit and was the Founder of Hotter than July, Detroit's annual black pride celebration. Kwabena describes his coming out as gay at 15 years old as being a blessed experience. He didn't experience intolerance from his family or bullying and rejection from classmates in his Detroit school. He says he was encouraged to live an open life, true to himself. Kwabena ultimately pursued a career in fashion in New York City, where during the 1980s he first experienced the inequality faced by the LGBTQ community. He watched friends suffer and die from AIDS with little help from their community or government. Much of the work he pursued later in life, he says, was inspired by that period in his life.



# Planning Committee

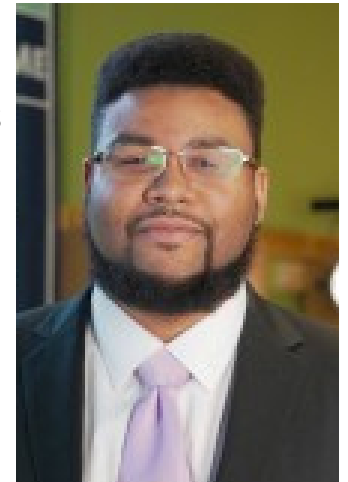
## Megan Landry

Megan Landry began her career at the American Cancer Society 2014 as a Community Development Manager, responsible for a portfolio of community-based fundraising events. She joined the Cancer Control Team in 2015 as a Hospital Systems Manager and transitioned into her current role as Senior Manager in 2021. In her role, Megan works with health system accounts (including hospitals, FQHC's, health departments) across the state of Michigan on cancer screening and prevention strategies, providing support for cancer patients, and supporting American Cancer Society funded Researchers. Megan serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Cancer Consortium and has recently joined the newly formed Advisory Board for the Karmanos Cancer Institute Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement.



## Evan Killingsworth

Evan is the Projects and Operations Coordinator of the safe, brave space LGBT Detroit. Evan was educated at Wayne State University in the College of Business and using those skills he hopes to engage the community to exceed this goal. As such, he will be working on the All Of Us Research Program, a project for LGBT Detroit in consultation with CenterLink, The Community Center For LGBTQ+ centers. The charge is designated for LGBT Detroit to engage in outreach, education, and awareness activities to explain and promote the All Of Us Research Program and will become a part of a center network of partner organizations to serve as trusted intermediaries and messengers. He also works with the Karmanos Cancer Institute, the cancer research center, in advocacy for LGBTQ+ cancer survivors and caretakers. As well as SAGE Metro Detroit, to bring awareness to the unique needs of LGBTQ+ Elders.



## Patrick Yankee

Patrick Yankee (He/Him) is the Chief Development Officer at Corktown Health. He has over 30 years of experience with managing state and federally funded programs for persons living with HIV. Patrick has held key positions as a consultant to the Michigan Department and Health and Human Services and the City of Detroit.



## Lon'Dyn Hudson

Lon'Dyn Hudson was born in the Jefferies Projects of Detroit, Michigan. Lon'Dyn grew up on the east side of Detroit from Bewick & Mack to 7 Mile and Barlow. Lon'Dyn later grew into her role as a community activist and advocate for the LGBTQ community. In 1997 Lon'Dyn joined The Infiniti Project where she was able to start her House and Ballroom Career. Throughout the years Lon'Dyn has made major impacts within the community and ball community; mothering over 29 children, being a founding mother of the Tranz Sistas of Color Project as well as an Original Board member. Lon'Dyn has raised the bar for the trans community in her own special ways. I Leave You These Words "Never Allow Anyone To Tell You Your Existence Does Not Exist"



## Sarah Kiperman, PhD, MEd

Sarah Kiperman is a School Psychology Assistant Professor at Wayne State University in the College of Education's Theoretical & Behavioral Foundations division and a behavioral consultant for Beaumont Health System. She received her PhD, MEd, and EdS in School Psychology from Georgia State University. She also received her MA in Educational Psychology from New York University and holds an undergraduate degree from Indiana University in English, Theater & Drama, and Psychology. Dr. Kiperman is a Licensed Psychologist in the State of Michigan and New York, is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist, and is a Registered Play Therapist. She became an active ally for the LGBTQ youth community in high school as her close friends came out and identified needing support from people who "get them". Since then, Dr. Kiperman has committed to being a lifelong learner to identify how LGBTQ youth and their people can feel supported. Her specific research interests include: understanding the lived experiences of LGBTQ youth and their support network, developing accessible tools for LGBTQ youth and their support network to help them lead affirming lives, accessible service development, and culture-specific intervention development. Dr. Kiperman has volunteered for nonprofits serving LGBTQ youth since 2005 and served as a board member for Real Youth based in Atlanta, GA. She was a research intern for the Center for Health, Identity and Behavior and Prevention studies at New York University and the Center for School Safety, School Climate and Classroom Management at Georgia State University.





## Planning Committee

### Patricia Wren, PhD, MPH

Patricia A. Wren, PhD, MPH is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Health at Wayne State University. Her public health career started when, as a doctoral student, she joined a research team evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and service organizations funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Since then, her research has largely focused on including participant voices and measuring patient-centered outcomes. She has worked on more than 20 research studies with \$33+ million in funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, National Science Foundation, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, National Eye Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These community-based research and clinical trials have addressed a range of health problems including HIV/AIDS, glaucoma and strabismus, breast and colorectal cancer, stroke, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, mental health and suicide, and pelvic floor disorders in women.



### Lloyd Allen, PhD, MSW

Allen joined Wayne State University's School of Social Work faculty as an assistant professor in Fall 2017. Allen received his PhD (2017) from the University of Georgia, his MSW (2008) from Florida International University, and his Bachelors (2004) from Hampden-Sydney College. His research interests, over the years, include the exploration of issues associated with gender and sexuality, HIV policy and advocacy, mental health and Black/African American gay men, community mobilization, program evaluation, masculinity, mental health, depression, substance abuse, and gender inequality. His dissertation, "Parent-Child Communications with Self-Identified Out Gay Men: A Qualitative Study," helped to unearth some unique insights regarding how to better improve policies, procedures, and interventions that may effectively reduce HIV infection rates, improve self-esteem among gay men, address potential mental health issues among gay males, and expand the various communication styles and techniques within this sub-group. Over the years, he has amassed a vast amount of social work clinical experiences as well as helped to coordinate, oversee, and evaluate several public health, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and STI infection programs that affected LGBT individuals. Research wise, his quest for knowledge and understanding were further enhanced by the various micro and macro research projects, which he undertook as a graduate student. In these studies, he collaborated with mentors and professors to examine what options and differences, if any, existed for gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals in comparison to heterosexual counterparts, when accessing treatment for alcohol abuse. Another research project exploring the citation impact scholarship of high-impact women in the top 25-ranked schools of social work, examined African American faculty publication success rates and scholarship character, specifically in the top 25-ranked U.S. schools of social work, and African American men and depression. Overall, his combined work and research experiences has helped to enhance his breadth and depth of understanding on the fundamental obligations of the core social work tenets.



# Guest Presenters

## Benji Rapp

Benji Raap has a master's degree in public administration. He has 11 years of public health experience and worked 3 years as a community health worker, 7 years as a HIV Medical Case Manager and just started his second year with the Cancer Prevention and Control Section of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Benji is the Cancer Screening Project Navigator. This project aims to help people living with HIV get screened for colorectal, cervical, breast and lung cancer in Michigan.



## Jerron Totten

Jerron Totten, 33, is a native of Reidsville, NC. A graduate of James Benson Dudley High School and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Totten currently resides in Detroit, Michigan. Professionally, he has spent over 7 years in political organizing having served on both the Obama and Hillary Clinton presidential campaigns. Currently, he is the Social Justice Engineer at LGBT Detroit, North America's largest African American found and led LGBT non-profit organization. Here Jerron leads five programs including the organization's largest fundraising event, Hotter Than July. Jerron recently received an appointment to Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's LGBT Leadership Council, elected as Precinct Delegate for Detroit's Precinct 201 and serves as Vice-Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party's Grassroots Caucus.



### **Hayley Thompson, PhD, Symposium Leader**

Hayley S. Thompson, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University and the Associate Center Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at the Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI), an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center. In this role, she established KCI's Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) and serves as its faculty supervisor. She is also founding director of the emerging Wayne State University Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP). She is a clinical psychologist whose research addresses racial and ethnic disparities in cancer care and outcomes. Her primary focus is community-based intervention research, including investigations of cancer survivorship. She has received funding from the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Patient-Centered Outcomes and Research Institute, and other agencies and foundations. She is currently a co-principal investigator on the NCI-funded African American Resilience in Surviving Cancer (ARISE) Study. Her research also addresses sociocultural assessment in diverse populations. She led the development of the Group-Based Medical Mistrust Scale (GBMMS), widely used in health disparities research, administered in over 100 published, peer-reviewed studies. She currently directs Michigan Cancer HealthLink, a community-academic partnership to build research capacity in diverse communities within Karmanos Cancer Institute's 46-county catchment area with 150 community members involved in contributing to Karmanos' research agenda. She is also Director of the Community Health Scholars Program within CHECK-UP, designed to support metro Detroit residents in building and applying research skills.



### **Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA, Symposium Leader**

Carrie Leach is an Assistant Professor of Research at the Institute of Gerontology, Community Engagement Program Manager at the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES), and Associate Director for Community Inclusion at the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP) at WSU. Dr. Leach has expertise in health communication, participatory and action research, digital and health literacy, and community-based and aging services delivery and communication. Her research, expertise, and driving passion are focused on improving communication inequities, decision making and public health by developing community-driven solutions derived from participatory processes. Her work at the IOG has focused on partnering with organizational leaders and community residents to evaluate and examine the needs of more than 5,500 older adults across Michigan to translate findings into actionable improvements in aging and community-based services practice and policy. At CURES she works with community stakeholders and researchers to co-construct multi-media materials aimed at improving environmental health literacy in Detroit. Those efforts resulted in disseminating health-protecting information to more than 5,000 Detroiters through face-to-face interactions and thousands more on-line. Her overarching aim is to foster University in-reach, so that the science community and expertise can be leveraged to the benefit of the public, and likewise, so researchers can learn through community engaged experiences and be better allies through their work.



## **Lisa Braddix, MPH, Symposium Leader**

Lisa Braddix is the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP) Steering Committee Chair. Lisa is a Program Manager with the Michigan Public Health Institute where she oversees projects that seek to eliminate health disparities in marginalized populations and fosters organizational collaboration to improve the health of communities throughout southeast Michigan. Lisa also serves as the Chairman for the Michigan Cancer Consortium Health Equity Committee and as Co-Chairman for the Healthy Pontiac We Can! Coalition. She has spent several years working in community health and is passionate about issues related to health disparities and health equity.



## **M. Safwan Badr, MD, MBA**

Dr. Badr is the chair of the Wayne State University School of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine. A professor of Internal Medicine, Physiology and Biomedical Engineering, Dr. Badr is also a staff physician at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center. He has mentored numerous trainees and junior faculty members who have launched successful academic careers. Dr. Badr is a co-director of CHECK-UP.



## **Alex Sass, MSW**

Alex Sass is the manager of research and operations for CHECK-UP. In this position she supports the CEnR Symposium Planning Committees, CHECK-UP Research Networks, as well as the administrative side of CHECK-UP. Additionally, Alex works as a research assistant at Karmanos Cancer Institute, Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) supporting the work of the Genesee County Cancer Action Council. While receiving her Master's of Social Work at the University of Michigan, her training focused on community-engaged research and health disparities. Alex also works as a research assistant under the NIA funded "Recruiting and Retaining Older African Americans into Research" funding the Healthier Black Elders of Flint program.





### **Asha Freeman, MPH**

Asha Freeman is a Research Assistant in the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine and an affiliated staff member in the Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. In this role, she works closely with the Cancer Action Councils (CACs) and assists with developing an adaptable written manuscript compiled of CAC materials, knowledge, and best practices derived from the HealthLink Model. Additionally, Asha serves as a project manager for the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP) at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. In this role, she works closely with a Total Health Foundation Grant in launching their Community Health Scholars Program.



### **Ali Fakh, BS**

Ali Fakh is a Research Assistant at Karmanos Cancer Institute, Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) and Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSU SOM), Department of Oncology. Ali works closely with Cancer Action Councils (CACs) where he aims to better understand the cancer survivor and caregiver experience among minority communities. He also leads the economic burden of cancer care among Arab Americans research study. In addition, Ali serves as a program assistant for the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP) at WSU SOM where he works to build research capacity among community members.





## WAYNE STATE CHECK-UP Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations

[www.check-up.wayne.edu](http://www.check-up.wayne.edu)

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