

**University of North Texas School of Public Health  
Research Collaborative  
January 30, 2009  
Organization Description of Interests for Collaboration**

Name of Organization: College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of North Texas, Denton

Description (100 words or less)

Departments in PACS with strong interest in healthcare research include the Department of Sociology, the Department of Applied Gerontology, and the Department of Anthropology. Sociology has medical sociology as one of three major areas of concentration for research and for specialization in the doctoral program. Applied Gerontology includes a master's specialization in long-term care administration and a doctoral program in applied gerontology for practitioners in the field of aging. Faculties in gerontology are especially interested in research on public policy issues including Medicare and Medicaid. Anthropology offers a masters degree in applied anthropology with a specialization in medical anthropology.

Key Areas of Interest for Collaboration (Check all that apply and specify as needed)

- Cancers (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Cardiovascular Diseases (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Diabetes/Obesity (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Asthma/Respiratory Diseases (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other Diseases/Conditions: (Please list and specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Access to Care (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Quality of Care (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Cost of Care (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Populations of Interest: (Please list and specify): Vulnerable populations including women, minorities, Africans, the uninsured
- Other (Please list and specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Dr. Cynthia Cready** joined UNT's Department of Sociology in the fall, 2000. She completed her Ph.D. at Texas A&M in 2002. Her dissertation is titled "Black Population Concentration and the Impact of Desegregation on Public School Funding/Spending in the U.S. Nonmetropolitan South" and was funded in part by the Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Research Related to Education. Dr. Cready has published articles in a variety of journals, including *Social Science Quarterly*, *Journals of Marriage and the Family*, *Rural Sociology*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *The Gerontologist*, *Health Services Research* and *The Milbank Quarterly*. Dr. Cready teaches many of the undergraduate level quantitative methods courses and is currently the Chair of the Department's Methods/Statistics Ph.D. Examining Committee.

Most recently Dr. Cready has joined Dr. Yeatts as Co-Principal Investigator of a \$191K three-year grant from the Commonwealth Fund to examine the impacts of self-managed work teams on nurse aide attitudes, absenteeism and turnover and on the residents' care. She has been instrumental in formulating the methodologies used, implementing and facilitating nurse aide teams, and working with nursing home administrators. Their grant research has received national attention.

**Dr. Susan Eve** received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1969. Her major research interest is in access to healthcare by vulnerable populations. Her most recent funded research was a study of access to healthcare among 2000 uninsured working-age adults who were patients in the JPS Health Network in 1001 (Texas Advanced Research Program, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board).

**Dr. Erma Lawson** received her Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1990. She received an R.N. from Howard University in 1976. Dr. Lawson joined the UNT faculty in 1996. Prior to joining UNT, Dr. Lawson was an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Lawson has been very productive since joining UNT, including publishing multiple articles and a book, receiving a large grant from the March of Dimes, and becoming the Director of the joint MPH/PhD program.

Dr. Lawson's primary interests are in the field of Medical Sociology and Marriage and the Family. In the area of medical sociology, recent publications include "Prenatal Maternal Blood Pressure Response to Stress Predicts Birth Weight, Gestational Age, and Fetal Weight Gain," in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*; and "Social Correlates of Black Women's Health Status," in *The Black Family: Essays and Studies*. In the area of marriage and the family recent publications include "Black Men's Perceptions of Divorce-Related Stressors and Strategies for Coping with Divorce: An Exploratory Study;" "Black Men after Divorce: How Do They Cope?" and her recently published book, *Shattered Marriages: Black Men and Divorce* (Sage Publications, 1999).

Dr. Lawson's funded research includes funds from the March of Dimes for the project "The Evaluation of a Motivational Smoking Intervention in a Texas Prenatal Clinic" (\$79,000), and "The Evaluation of a Motivational Smoking Intervention in Kentucky Appalachian and Urban Prenatal Clinics," (\$100,000) by the Kentucky Tobacco and Health Institute.

Recent presentations include "The Medicalization of Childbirth in Zimbabwe," at the Southern Sociological Meeting; "Economic Status and Race-Based Inequality as Risk Factors in the Health of Black Women," at the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists; and "The Importance of Psychological

Abuse in the health Status of Black Women,” at the International Black Women’s Congress (invited Keynote Speaker).

Dr. Lawson took leave in 2000 to attend Harvard University’s School of Public Health, Division of Public Health Practice and to collaborate with Harvard faculty. They are working on several projects including work on (1) gestational stress and infant outcomes, (2) gestational battering and infant outcomes, and (3) health outcomes of siblings who experience a murder of a family member.

**Dr. Ami R. Moore** joined the faculty at UNT in 2001. She received her Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University in 2000. Ami Moore’s research interests include Social Demography, HIV/AIDS Related Issues, Women’s Health, Gender and Family, and African Immigrants in the US. She teaches courses in Demography (both graduate and undergraduate levels) as well as in Sociology. She recently received a Fulbright HIV/AIDS grant to study Informal Caregiving to Children with HIV/AIDS in Togo. She was in Togo from July to December 2006.

**Dr. David A. Williamson** (Ph.D. Vanderbilt ’93) joined the UNT faculty in 1996. His special interests include Medical Sociology, and Traditional Medicine in Sub-Saharan Africa, Developing Societies, Sociology of Religion, and Applied Theory.

Dr. Williamson has most recently been investigating two areas: (1) theoretical questions surrounding the similarities/differences between the Sociology of Religion and Social Theory (funded research) and (2) more applied questions surrounding the practices of itinerant drug vendors in Ghana, West Africa (in cooperation with the Ghanaian Ministry of Health). Recent publications include: “Health Care Between the Cracks: Itinerant Drug Vendors and HIV-AIDS in West Africa” in the Journal of African Rural and Urban Studies; “Health and Empowerment: Use of Participatory Action Research to Plan Primary Care Services for Older African Americans” in Empowering Communities; and the book Job Satisfaction in Social Services published by Garland Publishing, Inc. More recently, Dr. Williamson has published two chapters on Women and Development in Africa and “Gender Differences in an Emerging Health Profession” in the Journal of Asian and African Studies.

Funded research includes a recent grant from the John Templeton foundation entitled “Bridging Voices: A Proposal to Link Orthodox Jewish Women Studying Scientific Theory in Israel and U.S. Students Studying the Sociology of Religion” (\$10,000.00).

Dr. Williamson has regularly sponsored study-aboard trips in Ghana where UNT students explore health care delivery, both traditional and biomedical, as well as economic development. Dr. Williamson also teaches social theory in a master’s degree program in clinical sociology that UNT offers in Jerusalem, Israel, and is working on developing distance education materials in order to extend the potential audience for the master’s degree.

**Dr. Dale Yeatts** received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He joined the UNT faculty in 1988. His primary areas of study are (1) the study of Self-Managed Work Teams (SMWTs) and factors affecting their performance, (2) Gerontology with a particular focus on nursing home management, and (3) Social Theory. Dr. Yeatts has multiple refereed publications and books focused on these issues. For more details, including his vita, see his web page at <http://courses.unt.edu/yeatts>.

**Dr. Kevin Yoder** joined the Department of Sociology in 2003. Prior to his appointment at UNT, he was a postdoctoral trainee at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University. Dr. Yoder earned a Master’s Degree in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Iowa State University. He currently teaches courses in Social Statistics, Research Methods, and Mental Illness, and My Research Focuses on Suicidality and Mental Illness Among Homeless Adolescents.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Dr. Beverley Davenport.** Anthropology and Social Epidemiology of Chronic Disease (especially hypertension, Type II Diabetes and Obesity), The Role of Race and Class as Variables in Health Disparities in the United States, Communication Processes in Medical Care, Medical Professional Socialization Processes, and Qualitative Methods in Program Evaluation.

**Dr. Doug Henry.** Medical Anthropology, Refugee and Immigrant Health, International and Public Health, The Demographic Impacts of Culture Change, The Internet, International Disaster Relief, Violence, Africa.

**Dr. Lisa Henry.** Cross-Cultural Health Beliefs and Treatments, Healthcare Decision Making and Alternative Medicine, Evaluation of Healthcare Delivery in Hospitals and Clinics, Patient Response and Compliance to Treatment Plan, Curriculum Evaluation in Medical Schools.

## **DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED GERONTOLOGY**

**Dr. James Swan.** Public Policy Analysis of Medicine and Medicaid Programs; Evaluation Research.