Social Determinants of Health & Diverse Populations

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Amber E. Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh. She completed her undergraduate degree with honors at the University of Pittsburgh. She then completed her medical degree and masters of business administration at Jefferson Medical College/Widener University in Philadelphia. In addition to a year of patient safety and quality improvement training at the Armstrong Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital, she was an internal medicine resident at Johns Hopkins, Bayview in Baltimore. She then returned to Pittsburgh for general cardiology fellowship, a research fellowship, and a master’s degree in clinical research from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Johnson’s research at the interface of health equity, social determinants of health, and mobile health technology has resulted in numerous publications and federal grant funding. She is the recipient of local and national clinical and research awards. She enjoys cooking, running, and spending time with family. She is the mother of two young daughters, Leilani and Nia.

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Alyssa Giron is new to the Pittsburgh area, recently moved from San Francisco, California where she has dedicated her career to addressing the mental health needs of individuals of all ages and backgrounds. As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Alyssa has worked in a variety of settings, providing crisis intervention services, and behavioral health interventions. She identifies as bilingual and bicultural – born in Hawaii, raised in Guatemala, and returned to the United States for college. Alyssa completed her undergraduate degree at West Virginia University, with a double degree in Psychology and Criminology & Investigations. She later completed a master’s degree in Counseling Psychology at Argosy University in Alameda, California. She understands the intricacies of culture shock, trauma, and the unique resilient qualities of the Latino community. Alyssa now works as the Director of Family Services for the Latino Community Center in Pittsburgh, PA. She oversees a team of 7 staff, 2 AmeriCorps members, 1 Public Ally, and 2 Pitt Social Work interns.
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Dr. Betty Baxter is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Health Promotion & Development at the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches nursing care of mothers, newborns, and families. Her research interests include smoking cessation during pregnancy and relapse prevention in young women. She is interested in utilizing doulas to provide a smoking relapse prevention intervention during postpartum. She is also interested in tobacco related health disparities. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Eta Chapter, and works on the 24-hour hotline for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape. She also participates in the Infant Mortality Working Group for the Center for Minority Health at the Graduate of Public Health.