**Program Title:**

*Neural Networking*

**Lead Applicant:**

Jay Baraban  
Professor, Neuroscience, SOM  
jay.baraban@gmail.com

**Key Collaborators**

Solange Brown  
Associate Professor, Neuroscience, SOM  
spbrown@jhmi.edu

Sri Sarma  
Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering, WES  
sridevi.sarma@gmail.com

Vikram Chib  
Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, SOM  
vchib@jhu.edu

**Short Description, Goals**

As the Neuroscience and BME graduate programs have few URM faculty, we have joined forces to provide increased opportunities for URM graduate students in these Departments to network with URM faculty from outside these Departments and URM alumni from both Departments. Furthermore, the proposal will offer opportunities for our graduate students to serve as mentors for undergraduate summer interns working in Neuroscience or BME labs. As outlined in the APA Resource Guide for Ethnic Minority Graduate Students (2010), active engagement in networking and mentoring are highly beneficial to minority graduate students as they promote improved career satisfaction and success.
Program Title:  
Leadership and Education in Academic Research and Networking for Enhancing Diversity (LEARNED)

Lead Applicant:  
Aisha S. Dickerson  
Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, BSPH  
adicke10@jhu.edu

Key Collaborators  
Roland J. Thorpe  
Associate Professor, Department of Health, Behavior and Society  
rthorpe@jhu.edu

Alyssa M. McCoy  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology  
amccoy26@jhu.edu

Dorian Jackson  
Doctoral Student  
Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology  
djack102@jhmi.edu

Ohemaa Poku  
Doctoral Student Department of Mental Health  
opoku1@jhmi.edu

Joel Bolling  
Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity  
jbollin3@jhu.edu

Sabra Klein  
Professor and Chair of the Graduate Program Committee, MMI  
sklein2@jhu.edu

David Sullivan  
Professor and PI of the Malaria and Mosquito-borne Diseases T32, MMI  
dsulliv7@jhmi.edu

Short Description, Goals  
This program will foster community and belonging among underrepresented minority (URM) PhD students and postdoctoral fellows across all JHBSHPH academic departments and research centers through facilitating networking and enhancing professional development. The LEARNED program will provide participants with critical resources for ensuring both academic and professional success via didactic seminars and workshops focused on developing skills and materials for future employment opportunities while simultaneously developing a powerful network with fellow URM students - interacting regularly with URM faculty and research professionals. Additionally, the program will cultivate the URM social experience and emphasize student and postdoc well-being during matriculation and training.
**Program Title:**

*Leadership Development Alumni Network for Minority PhDs*

**Lead Applicant:**

Damani Piggott, MD, PhD  
Assistant Dean for Graduate Biomedical Education and Graduate Student Diversity  
Assistant Professor of Medicine & Epidemiology (Joint), SOM  
dpiggot1@jhmi.edu

**Key Collaborators**

- Patricia Phelps, PhD  
  Director, Professional Development and Career Office (PDCO)  
  Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Campus  
  pphelps4@jhmi.edu

- Joel Bolling, MA  
  Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, School of Public Health  
  jbolling@jhu.edu

- Jada C. Domingue, PhD  
  Co-Chair, Hopkins Diversity Postdoctoral Alliance Committee (DPAC)  
  jdoming9@jhmi.edu

- Alex Duran, PhD  
  Director Office of Assessment and Evaluation (OAE)  
  School of Medicine  
  aduran2@jhmi.edu

- Sherita Golden, MD, MHS  
  Professor of Medicine  
  Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer  
  Johns Hopkins Medicine  
  sahill@jhmi.edu

- Robin Ingram, MHA  
  Assistant Vice President, School of Medicine Alumni Relations and FJHM Engagement  
  rhunt11@jhmi.edu

- Gloria Ramsey, JD, RN, FNAP, FAAN  
  Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, School of Nursing  
  gloria.ramsey@jhu.edu

- Susana Rodriguez, PhD  
  Co-Chair, Hopkins Diversity Postdoctoral Alliance Committee  
  srodr12@jhmi.edu

- Aliyah Silver  
  Biomedical Scholars Association (BSA) & Graduate Student, School of Public Health  
  asilve32@jhmi.edu

- Beza Woldemeskel  
  President, Biomedical Scholars Association & Graduate Student, School of Medicine  
  bwoldem1@jhmi.edu

**Short Description, Goals**

Literature identifies a sense of isolation and lack of support as primary barriers to URM success. We aim to create a vibrant alumni mentoring network to support our PhD students. Our alumni may understand the graduate experience our students face in impactful ways. Our alumni will share their network and nonacademic career knowledge, instill leadership skills, and provide culturally congruent mentoring necessary for our students’ success.
Program Title:
Black Graduate Student PhD Student Conference

Lead Applicant:
Ralph Etienne Cummings
Professor and Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering, WSE
retienne@jhu.edu

Key Collaborators
The Homewood Black Graduate Student Association
Renee Eastwood
Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Academic and Student Affairs, KSAS
rseitz5@jhu.edu
Ikenna Okafor
Doctoral Student, Department of Biology
Co-Director of BGSA
iokafor1@jhu.edu

Christine Kavanagh
Assistant Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Academic Affairs, WSE
christinekavanagh@jhu.edu

Darlene Saporu
Associate dean for diversity and inclusion, KSAS/WES
dsaporu1@jhu.edu

Bria Macklin
Doctoral Student, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
bmacil1@jhu.edu

Short Description, Goals
The Black Graduate Student Association will organize two annual conferences for Black graduate students on all Johns Hopkins University campuses focused on professional development, networking, skill and community building. The structure of this program will be a full day conference/retreat with professional development sessions, speakers, panels and a networking reception. The program will also establish the JHU Black PhD Alumni Association. The main goal of the proposed programming is to improve the experience and increase retention rates of black PhD students across all JHU campuses. Students will benefit from being able to network with peers with potential for collaboration across disciplines, and networking with alumni, speakers and other attendees for potential mentors and career opportunities. Students will also develop a sense of community and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, which will positively impact PhD students’ mental health.