



Congratulations to our Stars of the Month for October 2020, the **Nursing Public Health Network** for their work towards advancing justice, improving equity in health care, and connecting students across the Schools of Nursing and Public Health in pursuit of its mission. Pictured above, NPHN's members include (left to right): Top row: **Esita Patel**, President, and **Cassidy Griffith**, Treasurer; Second row: **Katherine Sistrunk**, Chair of Elections, and **Kris Iligan**, Secretary and Chair of Professional Development and Networking; Third row: **Julie Ward**, Member at Large, and **Savi Brenneke**, Chair of Elections; Fourth row: **Ariana Tran**, Chair of Communications and External Affairs, and **Anastasia Brennan**, Vice President.

Later this month NPHN will be hosting "Medical Apartheid and Equity in Care" on October 28. We spoke with the group about the upcoming event, as well as other plans for the year and how students can get involved.

**Could you tell us about NPHN? What is the organization's mission, and how are you finding time/space to collaborate this year?**

Absolutely! NPHN stands for Nursing Public Health Network, and it was founded by two MSN (in advanced public health nursing)/ MPH dual degree students in 2018. They noticed how the School of Nursing and the School of Public were quite siloed, and they wanted to start a group to bridge the two disciplines. NPHN's mission is to elevate the role of nursing in the public health space and to promote an interconnection between Johns Hopkins students of all educational levels (post-doctoral, doctoral, masters, undergraduate, and prospective), alumni and faculty in

both the schools of public health and nursing, and across the university and medical campus, in order to raise awareness on the work being done by nurses domestically and internationally.

We feel incredibly grateful to have such a passionate and active Executive Committee who are committed to developing meaningful events and opportunities for students to build professional development skills, to network with faculty, students, and alumni, and to learn from experts in the health field. The NPHN Executive Committee meets monthly, produces monthly newsletters, and are currently working toward implementing fun, meaningful, and informative virtual events this school year. [Check out Johns Hopkins Nursing magazine's coverage of our annual Career Panel event from last year to learn a little bit more about NPHN.](#)

**Could you tell us a little bit more about your upcoming event on Medical Apartheid and Equity in Care on October 28? What is the format of the event, and who are the guest speakers?**

Our Medical Apartheid and Equity in Care event is focused on addressing the pervasive issue of racism toward the Black community in health care. We were dedicated to developing an event where students and health care professionals could learn, reflect, and activate in this space. We reached out to Keilah Jacques from SOURCE, and with her guidance, we created an event where attendees can learn about the history of Medical Apartheid in the United States, discuss racism and health inequity in their own fields, reflect on their own experiences, and actively carry lessons learned throughout their practice.

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The format of the event consists of a panel and discussion portion. The first hour will be open to a wide audience and feature a panel discussion from experts on health inequity and racism. Our esteemed panelists include:

- **Dr. Graham Mooney**, Associate Professor in the Department of The History of Medicine
- **Dr. Ruth-Alma Turkson-Ocran**, a nurse practitioner and post-doctoral fellow with expertise on health disparities
- **Emerald Rivers**, a DNP-PhD student who recently co-authored "Dismantling Racism in Education: In 2020, the year of the nurse and midwife; it's time"

The second hour will be a facilitated discussion among a smaller group of students, who will be assigned to breakout rooms for guided reflection and learning of actionable ways they can help dismantle systemic oppression of the Black community within the health field.

### **What inspired you to organize this event, and what do you hope participants will walk away with?**

I think an excerpt from NPHN's July Newsletter is perfect for this question: "While the Black Lives Matter movement and racism in the United States has currently been mass "trending" on social media from the released video of George Floyd's horrific and inhumane murder by police officer Derek Chauvin, NPHN acknowledges that police brutality against the Black community has existed for centuries (slave patrols were established in 1704) along with a crippling and omnipresent system of oppression throughout the United States. It is pervasive and present within our health, housing, education, and judicial system, to name only a few. NPHN is in solidarity with the Black community and is committed to better educating ourselves, elevating Black voices, and being actively involved in deconstructing racism at all levels."

With this commitment, we reached out to SOURCE to help brainstorm and organize an event where students can engage in

active self-reflection of their own implicit biases, ways they may benefit from privilege, and practices they have performed and/or condoned that they did not realize contributed and perpetuated racism in the health field. However, reflection is only one piece of the puzzle, and we wanted to offer recommendations on how they can actively address and work to dismantle racism in the health field and in their practice. This is what we hope participants will walk away with.

### **What other events or plans does NPHN have for 2020-2021?**

For this Fall semester, we have an upcoming annual Career Panel event on Monday, October 5th from 12:15 pm-1:15 pm. We have a brilliant group of panelists with such diverse professional experiences, and we will be recording this event. If you are interested in learning more, be on the lookout for this or email us (contact info below) to access the recording.

In the Spring semester, we are planning a social justice oriented StorySlam that will be a talent art competition for youth in Baltimore, a unique mentorship program to connect undergraduate and graduate students, and a social media workshop for students to learn how to develop and improve their professional presence on Twitter.

### **How can other students get involved with NPHN activities or become a member of the organization?**

Students can find and add us on all the social media outlets @hopkinsnphn (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook), email us at nphn@jh.edu, or **[complete this registration form](#)** to become a general body member!

**Thank you all for your incredible efforts and for your commitment to advancing justice! We look forward to hearing more from NPHN this month and in 2021!**