

Center for Health Equity Transformation

Mission: To synergize innovative, transdisciplinary and impactful research and training to improve the health of the most vulnerable residents of Kentucky and beyond.

Kentuckians suffer tremendous health inequities and lead the nation in rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity. The **Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) researchers aim to go beyond documenting health disparities and move to reducing and eliminating these health problems** through intervention, implementation, dissemination, and translational science.

CHET aligns with the University of Kentucky's (UK) commitment to achieve health equity. This commitment includes a new research facility focused on health disparities; implementation of UK's strategic plan emphasizing health equity, transdisciplinary research, community engagement, inclusivity; and recruitment of stellar health equity-focused researchers. CHET is supported by resources provided by the Colleges of Medicine and Arts & Sciences, the Markey Cancer Center, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Team: A founding director, Dr. Nancy Schoenberg, and two associate directors lead a professional staff of graduate research assistants, 15 core faculty, and more than 130 faculty affiliates across UK's 17 colleges. Recruitment is underway for additional members at all levels (faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, and undergraduate and graduate trainees).

Programs and Support: A pilot grant competition in conjunction with the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the Office of Research funds innovative and rigorous research capable of providing preliminary data for future extramural grant submissions. A seminar series provides an enriching, transdisciplinary environment that fosters collaborations across disciplines, populations, and diseases. CHET assists with health equity grant review and supports applications from other programs, centers, and institutes at UK. In addition, CHET provides a range of opportunities for trainees to receive professional development to undertake innovative, transdisciplinary science for the next generation of health equity scholars. Outreach to communities most burdened by health conditions is a fundamental component of these research and training programs. Training programs include:

- **DREAM scholars program:** The Disparities Researchers Equalizing Access for Minorities (DREAM) scholars program will support the training of under-represented minority pre-docs, post-docs, and junior faculty through career development and core human subjects research with an emphasis on health equity methods.
- **SPARK program:** The Students Participating as Ambassadors for Research in Kentucky (SPARK) program provides undergraduate students the opportunity to return to their home communities for health promotion research and practice to promote health equity.

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