

DENÉE THOMAS MWENDWA, PH.D.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

| | | |
|---------------|------------|---|
| 6/2000-7/2001 | Internship | Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC <i>APA-Accredited</i> |
| 8/1999-8/2003 | Ph.D. | Howard University, Washington, DC Department of Psychology <i>Clinical Psychology, APA-Accredited</i> |
| 8/1996-8/1999 | M.S. | Howard University, Washington, DC |
| 8/1986-8/1990 | A.B. | Trinity College, Washington, DC |

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

05/2013 – present *Associate Professor*, Department of Psychology
Howard University

08/2013 – *Assistant Professor*, Department of Psychology
Howard University

PUBLICATIONS

Berg-Cross, L., **Mwendwa, D. T.**, Crump, S. L., & Griffith, R. (2007). Graduate school practica in primary care settings: Building identity and competencies. *The Register Report*. Washington, D.C: The National Register.

Sims, R.C., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ali, M.A., Thomas, J., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2010). Depressive Symptomatology: Relations to C-reactive protein in African-American Men, *Journal of Best Practices in Health Professions Diversity: Research, Education and Policy*, 3, 43-57.

Mwendwa, D.T., Sims, R.C., Madhere, S., Thomas, J., Keen, L.D., Callender, C.O., and Campbell, A.L. (2011). The influence of coping with perceived racism and stress on lipid levels in African Americans. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 103, 594-601.

- Mwendwa, D.T.**, Gholson, G., Sims, R.C., Levy-Massey, S.A., Ali, M., Harrell, J., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2011). Coping with perceived racism: A significant factor in the development of obesity in African-American women? *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 103, 602-608.
- Sims, R.C., Levy-Massey, S.A., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Callender, C.O., and Campbell, A.L. The influence of functional social support on executive functioning in middle-aged African Americans. (2011). *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition* 18(3), 1-18.
- Mwendwa D.T.**, Ali, M., Sims, R., Madhere, S., Levy, S., Callender, C., & Campbell, A. (2013). Psychometric properties of the Cook Medley Hostility Scale and its association with inflammatory markers in African Americans. *Psychology, Health, and Medicine*, 18, 431-444.
- Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ali, M.K., Sims, R.C., Lipscomb, M.W., Levy, S.A., Callender, C.O., Campbell, A.L. (2013). Depressive and hostile personality styles are associated with inflammatory markers of cardiovascular disease in African Americans. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity*, 28, 72-78.
- Ali, M.K., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., & Whitfield, K.E. (2014). Mindfulness as a potential factor against negative affect in older African Americans. *Journal of Depression and Anxiety*, S1: 001. doi:10.4172/21671044.S1-001.
- Sims, R.C., Bennett, N.K., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ali, M.K., Levy, S.A., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2014). Executive functioning and negative eating behaviors in severely obese African Americans. *Ethnicity & Disease*, 24, 328-334.
- Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R., Ricks, M., Callender, C., & Sumner, A. (Accepted). Age at immigration and kidney function among self-identified healthy Africans in the United States. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.
- Gholson, G.K., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (Accepted). Psychological factors in the decline of renal functioning. *Ethnicity & Disease*.
- Keen, L.D., Turner, A., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Callender, C.O., & Alfonso, A.L. (Accepted). Depressive symptomatology and respiratory sinus arrhythmia in a non-clinical sample of middle-age African Americans. *Biological Psychology*.
- Cole, A.P., Gill, J.M., Shivers, C.A., Fletcher, K.D., & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (Accepted). Brief Report: Understanding African-American College Students' H1N1 vaccination decisions. *Health Psychology*.

Sims, R.C., Cole, A.P., Ali, M.K., Whitfield, K.E., & Skinner, J., **Mwendwa, D.T.** (Revise and Resubmit). Examining the impact of obesity on executive function and memory in middle-age and older African Americans. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Mwendwa, D.T., Bygrave, D., Bennett, N.B., Herren, O., Johnson, J., Jones, V.L., & Sims Wright, R. The influence of physical activity on executive functioning in Older African Americans

Bell, K.A., Harrell, J.P., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Campbell, A.L., & Hicks, L. Sympathovagal balance and executive function in young African-American women.

Whitfield, K.E., Bruce, M., Sims Wright, R., Sims, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Aiken-Morgan, A. Cognition and CVD risk and mortality: Evidence from the Jackson Heart Study.

REFERRED PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Mitchell, D.S., Herren, O., Bygrave, D.C., N., Tudose, A., Warner, B., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Sims, R.C. (2014). Perceived stress, trait mindfulness, and memory associations among African Americans. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, A88.

Herren, O.M., Levy, S., Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2013). The Relation between spirituality and religiosity on executive function in African Americans. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 75(3), A-123.

Levy, S.T., Sharp, T., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Sims, R.C. (2013). Trait mindfulness and depressive symptomatology relations among African Americans. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 75(3), A-61.

Sims, R.C. & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2012). Cardiovascular and psychosocial influences on cognitive function in the S.O.C.A. study. *The Gerontologist*, 52(S1), 473.

Mwendwa, D.T., Bennett, N., Sims, R.C., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2012). Neurocognitive influences on negative eating behaviors among obese African Americans. *American Psychosomatic Society: Symptoms and Patient Reported Outcomes*, A-39.

Callender, C.O., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Bonney, G., Apprey, V., Lawson, B., Michael, M., & Campbell, A.L. (2012). Is There a Need for a Special Consent Form for African-American Kidney Donors? *Abstract published in the XXIV International Congress of the Transplantation Society*.

Levy, S., Sims, R.C., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ali, M.K., Gholson, G., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2011). Coping with perceived racism and dispositional hostility as indicators of cardiovascular disease risk in African Americans. *American*

Psychosomatic Society: Biobehavioral Processes and Health: Understanding Mechanisms, Implementing Interventions, A-19.

Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Madhere, S., Levy, S., Gholson, G., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2011). Empirically derived components of the Cook-Medley Scale and inflammation in African Americans. *American Psychosomatic Society: Biobehavioral Processes and Health: Understanding Mechanisms, Implementing Interventions*, A-47.

Mwendwa, D.T., Callender, C.O., Sims, R.C., Hernandez, A., Mouton, C., & Campbell, A.L. (2010). High BMI, increased waist circumference, and elevated GFR: A new relative contraindication to African American kidney donation? Abstract published in *The XXIII International Congress of the Transplantation Society*, Supplement to Transplantation, 90, 2620.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sims, R.C. & **Mwendwa, D.T.** Cognitive function in older African Americans: the skinny on fat. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America 66th Annual Scientific Meeting. New Orleans, LA, November 2013.

Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ramsey, N., Ricks, M., & Sumner, A. (2013). Optimism: A health protective factor in African immigrants? 121st American Psychological Association's Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI.

Levy, S.A., Mitchell, S.B., Jones, V.L., Bichay, K., Swain, D., Matthews, B., Sims, R.C., & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2013). Psychometric Properties of the Mindful Attention Awareness Scale in a College-Student Sample. 121st Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. Honolulu, HI.

Levy, S.A., Sharp, T., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Sims, R.C. (2013). Trait Mindfulness and Depressive Symptomatology Relations among African Americans. 71st Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society. Miami, Florida.

Herren, O., Levy, S., Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R., Callender, C. & Campbell, A. (2013). The relation between religiosity on executive function in African Americans. 71st Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society. Miami, Florida.

Ali, M., Keen, L., Bygrave, D., Jones, V., Gholson, G., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R., Callender, C., Hicks, M., Sumner, A. (2012). Chronic Kidney Disease Risk In African Immigrants. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Brown, T.N., Bennett, N.K., Levy, S.A., Mitchell, D., Smith, S., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C. (2012). The Relation between Trait Mindfulness and Inhibition in A Community-Based Sample of African Americans. Presented at the

Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana.

- Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Madhere, S., Gholson, G., Levy-Massey, S., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A. (2011). Empirically Derived Components of the Cook-Medley Scale and Inflammation in African Americans. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society. San Antonio, Texas.
- Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Madhere, S., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A. (2011). Empirically Derived Components of Hostility in a Community-Based Sample of African Americans. Presented at the 119th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Levy-Massey, S.A., Sims, R.C., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ali, M.K., Gholson, G., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A.L. (2011). Coping with Perceived Racism and Dispositional Hostility as Indicators of Cardiovascular Disease Risk in African Americans. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society. San Antonio, Texas.
- Levy-Massey, S.A., Sims, R.C., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Callender, C.O. & Campbell, A.L. (2011). The Influence of Social Support on Executive Functioning in a Community-Based Sample of African Americans. Presented at the 119th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.
- Mwendwa, D.T.**, Callender, C.O., Sims, R. C., Mouton, C., Hernandez, A., and Campbell, A. (2010). High BMI, increased waist circumference and elevated GFR: A new relative contraindication to African American kidney donation? Poster presented at the XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Congress, Vancouver.
- Gholson, G., Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Sims, R.C., Thomas, J., Callender, C.O., and Campbell, A.L., (2010). Race-Related Stress and Hostility: What underlies obesity in African-American women? Poster presented at the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
- Ali, M., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Thomas, J., Callender, C., Campbell, A. (2009, April). State/trait depression and anger/hostility as predictors of Interleukn-6 levels in African Americans. 15th Annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology, New York, NY.
- Thomas, J., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Madhere, S., Morehead, D., Ali, M., Callender, C.O., & Campbell, A. (2008, December). *Biopsychosocial predictors of obesity in African Americans*. Poster presented at the National Institutes of Health Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities. National Arbor, MD.

Mwendwa, D.T., Thomas, J., Crump, S., Callender, C.O., Morehead, J., Wiley, J., Brownlow, J., & Campbell, A.L. (2008, July). *Anger/hostility and depression associated with and inflammatory marker of cardiovascular disease in African Americans*. The International Society on Hypertension in Blacks: 23rd Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Hypertension and Related Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Ethnic Populations. New Orleans, LA

GRANTS

Funded Intramural Grants

Funding Sponsor: Office of the Provost
Howard University

Grant Title: Cardiovascular Risk and Cognitive Function in a Community-based Sample of Middle Age and Older African Americans

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Timeline: June 2011 – July 2011

Funding Sponsor: Office of the Provost
Howard University

Grant Title: The Information-Motivation Behavioral Skills Model of Medication Adherence in African Americans with Hypertension

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Timeline: August 1997 – June 1999

Unfunded Extramural Grants

Funding Sponsor: National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities
Innovative Faith-Based Approaches to Health Disparities Research (R21)

Grant Title: “Lowering Chronic Kidney Disease Risk Through Obesity Reduction: A Faith-Based Application of the BE-BLESSED Framework”

Funding Amount: \$275,000

Principal Investigator: Denée T. Mwendwa, Ph.D.

Co-Principal Investigator: Regina C. Sims, Ph.D.

Funding Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Behavior, Behavioral Change, and Prevention: Identifying Phenotypic Markers for Positive Behavior Change (Stimulus Grant)

Grant Title: “Academic-Community Partners in Research (A-CPR): A Model for Personalized Asthma Self-Management in African Americans”

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Principal Investigator: Georgia Dunston, Ph.D.

Co-Principal Investigator: Denée T. Mwendwa, Ph.D.

Funding Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Biomarker Discovery and Validation: Challenge Topic 03-AT-101 (Stimulus Grant)

Grant Title: “Psychoneuroimmunological biomarkers of stress.”

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Principal Investigator: Clive O. Callender, M.D.

Co-Principal Investigator: Denée T. Mwendwa, Ph.D.

Funding Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

Center for Population Health and Health Disparities in Cancer

Grant Title: “Mindfulness Intervention for Cancer Survivors.”

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Principal Investigator: Charles Mouton, M.D.

Co-Investigator: Denée T. Mwendwa, Ph.D.

JOURNAL REVIEWS:

Reviewer for *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*

Reviewer for *Psychosomatic Medicine*

Reviewer for *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*

Reviewer for *Psychoneuroendocrinology*

BOOK REVIEWS:

Reviewer for *Contemporary Clinical Psychology 3rd Edition* by Thomas Plante

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association,

Division 38, Health Psychology

American Psychosomatic Society

American Psychological Society

Gerontological Society of America

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Trinity College Alumni Association

Howard University Alumni Association

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

8/2006-present

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Howard University, Department of Psychology

525 Bryant St., NW, Rm. N-293

Washington, DC 20059

- ❑ Research interests: behavioral medicine/health psychology, hypertension, diabetes, and other cardiovascular diseases in minority populations
- ❑ Co-founded the Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Research Center (Health-PARC)
- ❑ Instructor for graduate courses in Individual Psychotherapy, Health Psychology and Group Psychotherapy

- ❑ Instructor for undergraduate courses in Abnormal Psychology and Introduction to Clinical Psychology

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

9/2005-8/2009

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Potomac, MD 20854

- ❑ Provide individual, couples, and group therapy under direct supervision of a licensed psychologist
- ❑ Co-founded the Rock-a-Bye Baby Institute to provide intensive therapy and psycho-educational techniques to women suffering from Postpartum Depression. Responsible for staff development and training to physicians and other healthcare professional on assessment and treatment of postpartum depression
- ❑ Collaborate to design and implement a behavioral health program to manage and treat hypertension and other chronic diseases
- ❑ Develop curriculum for Howard University Department of Psychology integrating health communications and psychology
- ❑ Supervise Howard University graduate students with therapy and assessment cases
- ❑ Serve as a liaison to the Howard University College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry to develop better diagnoses and treatments in response to health disparities among people of color
- ❑ Offer consultation to organizations on leadership and conflict resolution skills

6/2000-7/2001

HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, DC

Clinical Psychology Intern

- ❑ Provided individual and group therapy to men and women.
- ❑ Provided therapeutic services on three rotations: Outpatient Clinic, Inpatient clinic, and Consultation/Liaison.
- ❑ Utilized varied types of therapeutic interventions including Psychodynamic, Cognitive-Behavioral, Interpersonal, and Rational Behavior therapies with patients suffering from mental disorders.
- ❑ Administered, interpreted, and scored psychological tests on primarily adult populations.
- ❑ Participated in weekly individual and group supervision. Participated in daily psychiatry and oncology rounds with representatives from psychiatry and, oncology, radiology, medicine, nursing, social work, and medical students.

- ❑ Completed research project examining self-efficacy and its impact on oncology patients. Presented research project at Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

8/1999- 6/2000

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT,
WASHINGTON, DC**

Psychology Extern

- ❑ Responsible for providing individual and family therapy to juveniles, who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- ❑ Conducted diagnostic evaluations on clients to determine appropriate treatment plans.
- ❑ Maintained a caseload of 4 to 6 clients and provided written summation monthly on clients' progress to judges, lawyers, and probation officers.
- ❑ Offered testimony in court on clients' progress and/or success in treatment.
- ❑ Presented a case study in group supervision to closely track juveniles most at-risk for recidivism.

6/1997-6/2000

**WASHINGTON PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES,
WASHINGTON, DC**

Student Practicum/Consultant

- ❑ Provided individual, family, and group therapy to children, adolescents, and adult clients.
- ❑ Responsible for administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests, primarily child and adolescent populations.
- ❑ Participated in a weekly multidisciplinary treatment team meeting to assess the accuracy of initial diagnostic evaluations based on the criteria presented in the DSM-IV.
- ❑ Maintained a caseload of 8 to 10 clients referred by the District of Columbia Health and Human Services Division

9/1996-9/1997

CLIFTON T. PERKINS MENTAL HOSPITAL, JESSUP, MD

Student Practicum

- ❑ Responsible for administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests for a forensic population to determine intellectual functioning, emotional stability, and presence of psychosis in an adult population.

HONORS AND AWARDS

08/2012-Present

SUNY Downstate PRIDE Summer Institute, NHLBI

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- 12/2003-02/2005 **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MD**
Pre-College Program, UGST
Associate Director
- ❑ Supervised and monitor employee payroll transactions and maintain records for student stipends.
 - ❑ Managed program budget.
 - ❑ Developed partnerships in the community to maximize educational opportunities for Upward Bound Students.
 - ❑ Performed extensive analysis and planning of program performance to prescribed goals and objectives
 - ❑ Responsible for the overall grant preparation and implementation for the Upward Bound Program through the U.S. Department of Education.
 - ❑ Prepared and submit an annual performance report to the U.S. Department of Education.
 - ❑ Supervised academic and counseling staff and all program activities.
 - ❑ Coordinated program components.
 - ❑ Identified and acquired the resources and facilities necessary to carry out established program goals.
 - ❑ Recruited and selected program staff and student participants.
 - ❑ Planned and coordinated staff and parent orientation programs.
 - ❑ Executed all formal and social events provided by the program.
 - ❑ Performed other duties as assigned by the Director
- 9/2003-12/2003 **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MD**
Pre-College Program, UGST
Acting Assistant Director
- ❑ Responsible for the administrative needs of program staff and participants under the supervision of the Director.
 - ❑ Assisted with daily management of the program.
 - ❑ Assisted with staff and parent orientation planning and coordination.
 - ❑ Assisted with the identification and acquisition of resources/facilities to carry out established program goals and objectives.
 - ❑ Assisted the Director with developing partnerships with private industry and other public agencies to maximize educational opportunities for Upward Bound students.

- ❑ Planned and coordinated all formal and social activities facilitated by the program.
- ❑ Planned and coordinated program cultural and recreational activities.
- ❑ Composed preliminary draft of technical and federal reports.
- ❑ Served as program representative in the community.
- ❑ Assisted with budget record keeping.

7/2001-9/2003

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MD
Pre-College Program, UGST
Research Coordinator

- ❑ Responsible for collecting and analyzing data relevant to students' performance in the University of Maryland Pre-College Programs.
- ❑ Monitored and tracked students' progress through secondary education and post-baccalaureate degree.
- ❑ Assisted in grant writing to renew funding through the Department of Education for the Upward Bound and Math and Science Regional Center Programs.
- ❑ Performed extensive analyses of grant data and relevant information.
- ❑ Coordinated and prepared the submission of an annual progress report to the Department of Education.
- ❑ Prepared summary reports regarding annual retention, student achievement, and career attainment.
- ❑ Developed and conducted participant surveys for program evaluations.
- ❑ Supervised student workers during the summer and academic year.