



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

An Initiative of the Johns Hopkins University Division of General Internal Medicine

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# INTRODUCTION

The Brancati Center was established by a philanthropic gift from Walgreens and endowed in the name and vision of Dr. Frederick Brancati, Professor of Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Brancati was an internationally recognized expert on type 2 diabetes. Before his untimely death at the age of 53 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Dr. Brancati was a highly regarded teacher and mentor, having won numerous awards from students, fellows, and colleagues. He was emblematic of a deeply caring and kind physician and leader. His love of community was evident in all he accomplished.

## Mission:

The Brancati Center will improve the health of communities – locally and nationally– by developing, evaluating, and disseminating new models of health care that leverage the skills of a diverse range of healthcare providers. The Brancati Center engages community and corporate organizations, payers and policy-makers in a supportive partnership with patients and caregivers.

The Center pursues this mission through three major activities:

**Community Partnership:** The Center supports activities that identify and address the health and wellness needs of communities, especially in disadvantaged areas. It establishes partnerships to enable the testing and dissemination of innovative, evidence-based approaches to improving health care access, and advocates for policy changes to help sustain effective new programs. The Center partners with organizations and centers with similar goals.

**Education:** The Center supports educational activities and programs that promote diversity in the healthcare workforce, as well as programs that increase opportunities for community-based and community-oriented education.

**Research:** The Center supports research activities that study existing and innovative collaborative care models which utilizes community pharmacists, nurse practitioners and other providers in community settings to provide health and wellness services with a focus on demonstrating improved patient outcomes, reduced costs, and reduced health disparities.

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**“Never forget - in the end it is all about the people and all about the love.”**  
**-Fred Brancati**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

July 2016-June 2017 was a year of growth within The Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care. New team members were added, as well as new initiatives and projects. All active programs are described in detail in the report and summarized briefly below.

We are excited to announce that Geetanjali Chander, MD, MPH joined the Brancati Center team in August 2016 as the new Director of Research. An Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Dr. Chander is a primary care provider in the Johns Hopkins HIV Clinic. In addition to HIV, her research interests are focused on Hepatitis C, alcohol, substance abuse and trauma informed care. All of these were areas of need expressed by our community, so Dr. Chander's appointment expands the vision of the Brancati Center in direct alignment with community needs.

In addition to a new Director of Research, the Brancati Center also added two new staff members: Kathy Michalski and Fatmata Timbo. Ms. Michalski is a registered dietitian who is leading the intervention efforts of our Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPP).

Ms. Timbo in addition to providing program support for the DPPs, provides research assistance to other active programs.

As part of our Community Partnership Arm, our first DPP concluded in May 2016 and met all outcome requirements of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Thus, our program will be the first CDC-recognized DPP in Baltimore City. Thanks in part to the program's success, the Baltimore City Health Department has granted the Brancati Center an additional year of funding for three new DPPs which will launch in the fall of 2017. The Brancati Center is also partnering with Priority Partners Managed Care Organization to deliver Medicaid Demonstration Project DPPs. As part of this project, the Brancati Center launched four new DPPs in June: Memorial and Zion Baptist Churches, Knox Presbyterian Church, and Charm City Clinic. Six more are planned for launch in the fall at Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers in Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

Beyond the DPPs, we continue to expand our partnerships with community organizations in Baltimore. Brancati Center faculty, staff and volunteers participated in several health fairs, providing glucose screening, blood pressure screening, body mass index assessments, and diabetes risk assessments. We also expanded our screening and education programs at the Health Awareness Hub at Walgreens. Alongside our ongoing programs for HIV screening and cavity prevention, we are now offering monthly Hepatitis C screening. We also held special events during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, World AIDS Day, World Kidney Day and the annual Walgreens Greater than AIDS Campaign. We have strengthened our partnerships with community organizations such as MERIT and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and anticipate launching several new programs with them in the coming year.

The Education Arm conducted a survey across residency programs at Johns Hopkins to assess current activities and needs related to training in population health and health disparities. While we are still analyzing the data, identified areas of need include community engagement and application of public health to improve the health of their populations. Our community partners have also identified educational needs that we will attempt to meet by launching educational programs around diabetes in the churches and at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in conjunction with their food bank.

In addition to awarding another pilot grant, the Research Arm has expanded the scope of the Brancati Center to include smoking cessation and substance abuse. This past year Center researchers conducted interviews with HIV infected smokers and also held a smoking related focus group at one of our community partner sites. Finally, the research arm met with community stakeholders to determine intervention strategies to reduce the use of alcohol for women living with or at risk for HIV.

We invite you to read through the report to learn more about our accomplishments of the past year and our plans and goals for the coming year. We welcome your feedback and ideas, as well as your help, as we move ahead in Fred's name and spirit to explore new, collaborative models of care to improve the health of our communities.



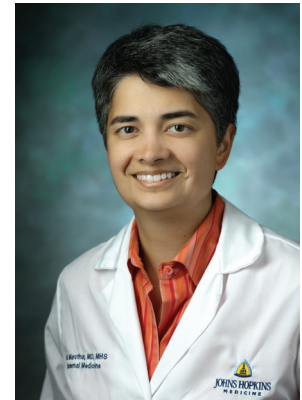
**Jeanne Clark, MD, MPH**  
**Executive Director**

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

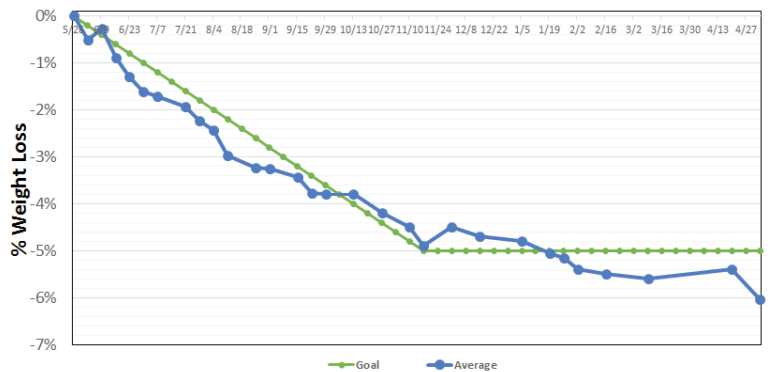
The community partnership arm aims to provide access to evidence-based care through partnerships with the community where people live. This has been an exciting and productive year as we continue to expand our diabetes prevention programs (DPP) in the East Baltimore community and increase our presence at community-based events and health fairs.

**Diabetes Prevention Programs:** In February 2016, the Brancati Center received a grant from the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) to help fund two 12-month diabetes prevention programs in the East Baltimore community. Through its partnership with the Pastors and health ministries at Zion Baptist Church and Memorial Baptist Church, the Brancati Center helped launch these first DPPs in East Baltimore in May 2016 called the Power to Stop Diabetes program. After 12 months, the participants met all CDC requirements including:

- 90% attendance (CDC goal: 60%)
- 85% reporting physical activity (CDC goal: 60%)
- 6% weight loss (CDC goal: 5%)



**Nisa Maruthur, MD, MHS**  
**Director of Community Partnership**



*"I feel better physically. I am able now to walk up and down the steps. I am able to breathe better and I just feel better about myself. My body is a temple and I am learning how to take care of this temple and it's a good feeling."*

*-Joanne Wilson, Program Participant, Zion Baptist Church*

As a result, the Power to Stop Diabetes program is on track to be the first CDC-recognized program in Baltimore City. To hear directly from our partners and participants about the impact this program has had, please watch the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXiFI6nggTE&feature=youtu.be>

Based on the success of this program, the Brancati Center has received additional funding from the BCHD to conduct three more DPPs in partnership with the community.

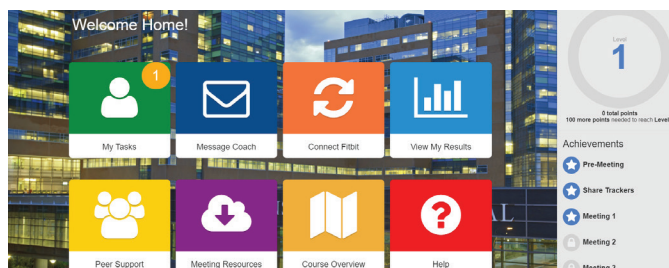
*"The relationships that Memorial and Zion and the church community have developed in the community at large, particularly with Johns Hopkins and the Brancati Center, have been significant in making the community aware that there are operations within Hopkins Hospital that are community oriented and want to get not only the information out but services that will help improve their health."*

*-Pastor Calvin E. Keene, Memorial Baptist Church*



**Medicaid Demonstration Project:** Fifteen years after publication of a landmark paper about the DPP, the DPP has now garnered insurers' attention. Medicare will begin covering DPP programs in April 2018 and Medicaid is currently funding demonstration projects in two states, Maryland and Oregon. As part of the Medicaid demonstration project, the Brancati Center is partnering with Priority Partners Managed Care Organization to deliver programs in Maryland. This project will help determine the Medicaid reimbursement model for the DPP in the future. We have launched four new DPPs at various sites in East Baltimore, Memorial and Zion Baptist Churches, Knox Presbyterian Church, and Charm City Clinic, and have enrolled a total of 33 participants. There are also eight non-Medicaid participants in these programs. During Year 2 of this project, we will establish DPPs at four federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs): Chase Brexton, Baltimore Medical Systems, CCI Health and Wellness Services, and Greater Baden Medical Services.

**Virtual Diabetes Prevention Program:** The Brancati Center is working with ViiMed and Johns Hopkins HealthCare Solutions to develop an online CDC approved Diabetes Prevention Program. Anticipated to launch in October 2017, this program will allow participants who do not have access to in-person DPPs to participate in a program. (Image: Virtual DPP Home Page)



**Community Health Screenings:** It continues to be a part of the Brancati Center's mission to provide community-based health screenings. Brancati Center leaders, along with volunteers, provide glucose and blood pressure screening, weight measurements, body mass index calculations, and administer the American Diabetes Association's (ADA) Diabetes Risk Test. In the 2016-2017 academic year, the Brancati Center participated in six health fairs including the ADA's Diabetes Alert Day, the Douglass Homes Health Fair, Mueveton, and Community Outreach Fairs at Memorial and Zion Baptist Churches.



**Brancati Center Volunteer Corps:** During our first full year of activities in the Brancati Center, we realized that we had many willing volunteers to assist us in our community-based activities but we needed a central program to recruit, train, and maintain a diverse volunteer force consisting of staff, trainees, and faculty with clinical and non-clinical skills. The Community Partnership Arm is pleased to announce the formation of the Brancati Center Volunteer Corps and the selection of the Inaugural Chief Volunteer Officer, Dr. Melinda Sawyer. Dr. Sawyer has drafted a comprehensive Volunteer Corps Charter to get us started as we grow our Volunteer Corps.

**Forza Brancati:** Forza Brancati had a team of 15 riders and 47 walkers at the ADA Tour de Cure and ADA Step Out Walk, respectively. At both events, the team collectively raised \$13,666 in support of the cause. We will be participating in the ADA Step Out Walk on Sunday, October 1, 2017. To join or support the team, please visit our team page at [www.diabetes.org/forzabrancati](http://www.diabetes.org/forzabrancati).

**Future Plans:** We are pleased to have Dr. Maya Venkataramani join the Brancati Center in August 2017. Dr. Venkataramani completed her Fellowship in General Internal Medicine in June 2017 and is joining the General Internal Medicine faculty. She is a physician trained in both internal medicine and pediatrics and has additional training in public health. Her work focuses on community-based prevention and care of chronic disease and health promotion for parents. Dr. Venkataramani will be developing methods to disseminate the DPP among young parents, a group that often does not seek medical or preventive care.

We will implement our first Spanish-language DPP in two of the FQHCs associated with the Medicaid demonstration project. Ana Recinos-Baez, a rising second-year medical student from San Juan Bautista School of Medicine is helping us to evaluate the readability of the CDC's Spanish-language DPP materials so we can make adaptations for our Spanish-speaking population in Maryland.

Finally, in the coming year, the Brancati Center hopes to explore options for offering the DPP to Johns Hopkins employees, an important part of our community.

# EDUCATION

The goals of the education arm of the Brancati Center are to support novel educational programs that enhance community capacity building and address community health needs, to enhance experiences and training for youth pursuing careers in the health care field, and to enrich training in community based and population health for trainees at the university and health professions level. To accomplish these broad goals, we offer a grant program as well as opportunities for dialogue among the various partners to promote shared activities for health improvement.



**Eric Bass, MD, MPH**  
Co-Director of Education



**Raquel Greer, MD, MHS**  
Co-Director of Education

**Grant Program for Education in Community & Population Health:** In July 2016, two teams began work on projects funded by our grant program for Education in Community and Population Health. One team, led by Drs. Rebeca Rios and Erica Johnson, focused on developing an innovative intergenerational educational program involving Girl Scouts, medical residents, and senior citizens in learning about social determinants of health in the Turner Station community, a historically Black community in southeast Dundalk. The other project, led by Dr. Tina Kumra, focused on developing an innovative curriculum for preventive medicine residents and interdisciplinary clinic staff on healthy eating and diabetes prevention in the Remington neighborhood of Baltimore.

A second Request for Application (RFA) was released in early March 2017 to fund novel educational projects that will increase the capacity and competency of the health-care workforce to integrate community and population health strategies to improve the health of underserved populations. This initiative focuses on training programs at Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine, specifically clinical residency programs. The following proposal was selected for funding: “Developing Community and Enhancing Community Capacity to Address Unmet Social Needs by Co-developing a Training Program for Paraprofessional Health Workers” - Albert W. Wu, MD, MPH (Professor, School of Public Health.) The project seeks to enhance the capacity of key individuals in Johns Hopkins Medicine and community-based organizations to serve as community leaders, strengthen organizational ties between Johns Hopkins Medicine and community-based organizations, and create a training program for a Social Determinants Liaison service that would help health care providers navigate community-based services for patients affected by social determinants of health.



**Collaboration with Student Pipeline Programs:** We are actively expanding our partnership with MERIT, a program that prepares under-represented high school students for careers in health care. In the past year, we partnered with the MERIT Program to enrich the training they provide to their students in biomedical and health care research. We provided financial assistance for further development of their research curriculum and assisted in recruiting faculty to speak with the MERIT scholars about their research. We have agreed to fund the “Johns Hopkins Brancati Center Fellowship,” an intensive longitudinal internship program for MERIT students, with an anticipated launch of August 2017.

**Residency Program Interviews:** We are finishing a formal needs assessment using semi-structured interviews to assess the extent to which Johns Hopkins' clinical residency training programs provide training in population health and health disparities, including five educational milestone categories: community engagement, public health, team and leadership skills, cultural competency, and critical thinking. We are using the educational milestone categories to characterize existing curricular content, perceptions of trainees' achievement of the milestones, and views about tools and resources that could improve training in these milestone categories. The results will guide future Brancati Center efforts to improve training of health professionals across a wide range of clinical specialties. 19 program directors were interviewed. Preliminary results indicate that the majority of program directors view community engagement as a priority area for improvement. To improve training in community engagement, program directors report that they need more educational resources (didactics and experts), protected time for faculty and residents, and better information about community service opportunities.

## PRIORITY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Milestone Category	Description	# of Programs Ranking as Priority	Needed Resources
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Applies principles of community engagement (community partnerships, engaging stakeholders) to improving health of populations	10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational resources (didactic, experts)</li> <li>Protected time for faculty &amp; residents</li> <li>Info about community service opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health</b>	Applies principles of public health (social determinants of health, health assessments, use of registries) to improving health of patients & populations	5/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational resources (trained faculty, curricular support)</li> <li>Community partnerships</li> <li>Protected time for residents</li> <li>Financial resources</li> </ul>
<b>Team &amp; Leadership Skills</b>	Uses team & leadership skills (inter-professional, crucial conversation) to improve health of populations	2/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational resources (didactic, online learning, Train the Trainer)</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Competency</b>	Demonstrates humanism & cultural proficiency	3/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational resources (modules, trainings)</li> </ul>
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Uses critical thinking skills (use of quality metrics, data sources, system-based thinking) to improve health of populations	2/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trained faculty</li> <li>Access to experts</li> </ul>

### Future Plans:

**Improve Integration of Training to Improve Population Health and Health Equity:** We will complete the analysis of interviews of Johns Hopkins Residency Program Directors and will use the findings to guide curriculum development and/or enhancements to better prepare residents to integrate population health strategies to improve health overall and address health disparities. These efforts will include revising our Request for Proposals for educational projects to target areas where significant gaps were identified. For example, for programs seeking community engagement opportunities, we will facilitate connections with existing resources such as the Brancati Center Volunteer Corps and Health Awareness Hub.

**Collaboration with Student Pipeline Programs:** We will continue to work with the MERIT program to implement the "Johns Hopkins Brancati Center Fellowship," an intensive longitudinal internship program for MERIT students that span a broad range of placement sites (e.g., basic science research, clinical research, community health project). The Brancati Center will serve as an internship site for 1-2 MERIT students each year to provide them with rich training opportunities in the implementation of community-based programs and research projects to improve the health of the medically underserved populations.

We have also joined the Dunbar High School Health Partnership, a partnership between Johns Hopkins and Dunbar High School in Baltimore City to encourage and prepare students to pursue careers in health care. Using findings from a recent needs assessment, we hope to develop and implement curricular enhancements to provide students with broader exposure and training experiences across various career paths in health care, public health, and clinical research.

**Development and Implementation of Community-Based Educational Interventions:** We are currently developing two programs to implement in the fall, including a nutrition education program in the food pantry program at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, as well as a diabetes educational series at Zion Baptist Church and Memorial Baptist Church.



# RESEARCH

The Center supports research activities that study existing and innovative collaborative care models with a focus on demonstrating improved patient outcomes, reduced costs, and reduced health disparities.

**Research Grants:** Two pilot grants were awarded in February 2016 to reduce health disparities. Dr. Kimberly Gudzone's (Assistant Professor, School of Medicine) pilot focused on developing a combined weight control intervention for residents in Baltimore City Public Housing Units using social networks, built environment, and peer modeling. The other project, led by Dr. Hae-Ra Han (Professor, School of Nursing), refined and tested an intervention focused on building health literacy among urban African American individuals through community-based education and home visits. A second request for applications was released in December 2016, this time focused on addressing substance misuse in Baltimore City. Dr. Anika Alvanzo's proposal entitled "Development of a Trauma-Informed Brief Intervention for Alcohol (TIBIA) app for Women" was funded to begin March 2017.



**Geetanjali Chander, MD, MPH**  
**Director of Research**

**Smoking Cessation:** Individuals living with HIV have 2.5 times the prevalence of smoking compared to those without HIV. With grant funding from the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund we performed semi-structured in-depth interviews with HIV infected smokers living in Baltimore City with the goal of developing a behavioral intervention tailored to their needs. We conducted 14 in depth interviews. After completing these interviews, we also held a community focus group to determine if what we learned from the interviews was applicable more broadly to smokers in Baltimore City. We are using information gleaned from these interviews and the focus group to develop tailored smoking cessation counseling sessions. We will be programming these counseling scripts into a software platform that will allow for interactive, computer-delivered counseling. We will be piloting this program in the Fall among Persons Living with HIV with the goal of extending this pilot into the Baltimore community more broadly.

**Alcohol Use Among Women in Baltimore:** This past winter, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins ICTR Community Research Advisory Council, we met with stakeholders in the community to discuss how best to implement interventions to reduce alcohol use among women living with and at risk for HIV. This meeting informed an NIH proposal using a Community Based Participatory implementation framework to address alcohol use and its social determinants among women in Baltimore City. This grant was reviewed by the NIH in May and will be awarded this summer.

**Future Plans:** In addition to focusing efforts on diabetes prevention and substance use in East Baltimore, we are expanding our research efforts to include Latinos in the Baltimore Community. In collaboration with Dr. Kathleen Page, we are planning a community based survey of Latino individuals living in Baltimore City where we will assess general health priorities of the community, including diabetes and alcohol use, access to care, and use of information and communication technology for health information. This survey will inform the development of culturally relevant programming addressing the health needs of the Latino community.

Finally, the recipients of the first Brancati Center Research Awards, Kimberly Gudzone, MD and Hae-Ra Han, PhD will be presenting the results of their pilot projects at General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds in the Fall 2017.

# HEALTH AWARENESS HUB

The Brancati Center continues to lease the clinic space in the Walgreens store adjacent to the Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Medical campus (900 N. Washington Street). With two exam rooms and one small conference room, the space is being used as a health screening and promotion center for the local community.

We held a number of screening and awareness events in the Hub during the past year, including:



- Domestic Violence Awareness Month training and awareness (October 2016)
- HIV Screening- World AIDS Day (December 2016)
- Blood Pressure Screening (February 2017)
- World Kidney Day Screening & Awareness Event (March 2017), in collaboration with the National Kidney Foundation
- Greater than AIDS Campaign: HIV & Hepatitis C Screening (June 2017)



Three programs are ongoing:

- HIV and Hepatitis C Screening- monthly
- Pediatric Cavity Prevention Program- weekly
- Weight Management Study- three times a week

We have made plans to conduct the following programs in the coming year:

- Women's STI Screening Program
- Glucose Screening
- World AIDS Day (December 2017) and Greater than AIDS Campaign (June 2018)
- Additional awareness events focused on various health related topics
  - Immunization Awareness Month (August 2017)
  - National Cholesterol Awareness Month (September 2017)
  - Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2017)
  - Diabetes Awareness Month (November 2017)



## **Johns Hopkins Brancati Center Contact Information:**

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410-614-6441  
2024 E. Monument Street, Room B-317  
Baltimore, MD 21287

# APPENDIX

## Brancati Center Advisory Board:

**Martha Hill, PhD, RN;** Professor, Dean Emerita, The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

**Elizabeth Jaffee, MD;** The Dana and Albert “Cubby” Broccoli Professor of Oncology, Johns Hopkins Medicine

**Michael Klag, MD;** Professor, Dean, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Tammy Mays;** Principal, Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, East Baltimore

**Tracy Newsome;** Director, Community Health Strategies, American Diabetes Association

**Darcy Phelan-Emrick, DrPH;** Chief Epidemiologist, Baltimore City Health Department

**Marshall Prentice, DDiv;** Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, BUILD, CURE

**Samuel Redd;** Director, People United to Live in a Safe Environment (Operation PULSE)

**Chet Robson, DO, MHCDS, FAAFP;** Medical Director, Clinical Programs and Quality, Walgreens

**Mark Shaver, MBA;** Vice President, Business Development and Strategic Alliances, Johns Hopkins Medicine

**Terry Staudenmaier, JD;** Program Officer, Health and Human Services, The Abell Foundation

## Brancati Center Leadership Bios

### Jeanne Clark, MD, MPH, FACP Executive Director

Dr. Clark is the ‘Frederick L. Brancati, MD’ Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine. She is the Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care

Dr. Clark is a general internist with an ongoing primary care practice. The author of over 100 articles and two book chapters, Dr. Clark has devoted her career to studying the epidemiology and treatment of obesity and its consequences, especially type 2 diabetes and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. For the last 5 years she has taken up the work of Dr. Fred Brancati to create innovative collaborations with commercial partners to disseminate health promotion programs into the community and across the country.

Dr. Clark received her M.D. from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, where she also served as Chief Resident. She completed a research fellowship in General Internal Medicine at Hopkins where she received her MPH, and then joined the Hopkins faculty in 2000.

### Eric B. Bass, MD, MPH Co-Director of Education

Eric B. Bass, MD, MPH, FACP, is a Professor of Medicine with joint appointments in Health Policy and Management, Epidemiology, and Nursing at The Johns Hopkins University. He attended Duke University for medical school, and received his residency training in internal medicine and an MPH degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed a fellowship in general internal medicine at Hopkins, and joined the Hopkins faculty in 1989. His research interests are in evidence-based medicine and assessment of the effectiveness, safety, and costs of medical management strategies. He is the Director of the Johns Hopkins Evidence-based Practice Center. His teaching activities focus on education at the interface between

medicine and public health. He is the Director of the medical school's course on Foundations of Public Health, and Co-Director of the medical school's Scholarly Concentration in Public Health and Community Service. He also has expertise in curriculum development, having served as a facilitator for the Faculty Development Program, and having co-authored a book on curriculum development. He served as the Editor of the Journal of General Internal Medicine for 5 years, and was the founding Editor-in-Chief of a journal dedicated to community-based participatory research called Progress in Community Health Partnerships. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and 40 evidence reports. He continues to have a clinical practice as a general internist.

### **Geetanjali Chander, MD, MPH** **Research Director**

Dr. Chander is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is a general internist who specializes in the care of persons living with HIV (PLWH). She has a particular interest in the screening, diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders among PLWH. She and her colleagues have developed and are testing an alcohol reduction and HIV prevention intervention for women attending the Baltimore City Health Department STD Clinics. They have also tested the effectiveness of brief alcohol intervention among women living with HIV. Dr. Chander also has interest in reducing tobacco use among individuals in the Baltimore Community is currently involved in a study testing an internet smoking cessation program for PLWH.

### **Raquel Greer, MD, MHS** **Co-Director of Education**

Dr. Greer is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She earned her medical degree and completed her internal medicine residency training at Hopkins. She then completed a clinical research fellowship in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Hopkins and during this time, she also obtained a Masters of Health Sciences in Clinical Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Greer is a general internist with an active clinical practice and a clinical researcher dedicated to eliminating ethnic/racial disparities in health and health care among patients with chronic illness, including hypertension, diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Her work has included the conduct of studies a) to identify patient-, provider-, and system-level factors contributing to poor quality and disparities in care among patients with chronic illness and b) to develop and evaluate approaches to address them. Dr. Greer is also the co-director of the Clinical Epidemiology Curriculum for the Johns Hopkins University School and is committing to training and mentoring medical students, residents, fellows and junior faculty interested in pursuing careers in clinical research.

### **Nisa Maruthur, MD, MHS** **Director of Community Partnership**

Dr. Maruthur is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University. She completed her undergraduate studies in chemistry at the University of Chicago and obtained her medical degree from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She completed her residency training in Internal Medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Maruthur then pursued training in clinical investigation during her General Internal Medicine Fellowship at Johns Hopkins and earned a Master of Health Science degree in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology from The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She subsequently joined the Hopkins faculty.

Dr. Maruthur is a board-certified internist and has an active primary care practice. She conducts research focused on three main areas: 1) precision medicine for preventing and treating diabetes; 2) comparative effectiveness of treatments for type 2 diabetes; and 3) clinical trials in diabetes and related conditions. Dr. Maruthur is also committed to training the next generation of clinician-investigators in epidemiologic and clinical trials methods and serves as Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins General Internal Medicine Fellowship. Dr. Maruthur has served as the team captain for the Division of General Internal Medicine's American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure team, Forza Brancati, for the past five years; the team has raised over \$30,000 to fund diabetes research, advocacy, and outreach in honor of Dr. Frederick L. Brancati.



**Megan Brown, MBA**  
**Program Manager**

Ms. Brown is the Program Manager for the Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care at The Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Brown has been with Johns Hopkins since 2002, starting in Graduate Medical Education managing residency programs in both Dermatology and Pediatrics and overseeing the Pediatric medical student clerkship. Most recently Ms. Brown served as a project manager in Johns Hopkins HealthCare Solutions, responsible for the collaboration between Johns Hopkins and Walgreens. This ongoing collaboration is exploring innovative ways of delivering health care through clinical program development and consulting. She joined the Brancati Center in 2015.

Ms. Brown has a bachelor's degree from Towson University and a master's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Organization Development from The Johns Hopkins University. She is the co-chair of the American Diabetes Association Young Leaders and a member of Emerging Leaders United of United Way of Central Maryland.