



**DR. DANIEL F. SARPONG**, a trained biostatistician, is the Director of the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education, Endowed Chair of Health Disparities and Professor of Biostatistics at Xavier University of

Louisiana (XULA). He is also the Director of the Xavier RCMI Cancer Center Community Engagement Core and Director for Community Engagement and Outreach Resource (CEOR) of the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LACaTS) Center. Dr. Sarpong serves on Governor John Bel Edwards' Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Health Disparities and Research Subcommittee. From 2000 to 2013 at Jackson State University, Dr. Sarpong held the following positions: Research Professor with the School of Health Sciences; Director, Co-Principal Investigator and Senior Biostatistician of the JHS Coordinating Center (JHSCC); and Director of Data Management, Quality Assurance, and Information Technology.

Dr. Sarpong's research focuses on translational research exploring innovative approaches to mitigating both biological and social determinants of health disparities in the areas of obesity, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, cancer, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. His programmatic focus is in the areas of large epidemiological studies and lifestyle modification intervention trials designed to mitigate health disparities. Currently he is an associate editor of IJERPH, Frontiers Public Health and CDC Journal - Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD), and the author of over 85 scientific peer reviewed publications; Data Analysis Using SPSS: Visual Step-By-Step Process Manual One, and Pearls Of Wisdom: and The G.A.P.P. Principle For Success.



*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Grand opening of Xavier University of Louisiana Health and Wellness Center.*

### Collaborative Efforts

The Center has effectively collaborated with several organizations & institutions. Some include:

- College of Pharmacy's Health and Wellness (H&W) Center
- RCMI Translational Research Network
- Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LACaTS) Center
- Xavier's Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Cancer Center

### Providing Infrastructure to Mitigate Health Disparities

Contact Information:  
[cmhdre@xula.edu](mailto:cmhdre@xula.edu)

 **Xula Health Disparities Research & Education Center**

 **@XulaCMHDRE**

## Xavier University of Louisiana COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



# Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



### DR. DANIEL SARPONG

Professor of Biostatistics and Endowed Chair of Health Disparities, Third and Current Center Director, 2013-Present



CMHDRE was established on January 14, 2002 within Xavier University's College of Pharmacy (COP), through an endowment award from the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Our mission is to improve health outcomes of diverse communities disproportionately impacted by health and health care disparities, through community engagement and partnerships in research, education, and practice.

## The Overarching Goals of the CMHDRE

- A.** To provide an environment to support and strengthen the research interests and activities of current and new faculty members related to health disparities with a specific focus on diabetes, cancer, and asthma.
- B.** To develop student-oriented programs to support student research and promote postgraduate education.
- C.** To integrate health promotion, education, and disease prevention into the training of future health care professionals.
- D.** To advance and sustain meaningful partnerships with diverse communities to address health and health disparities.

## Areas of Emphasis for the CMHDRE

- 1.** Diabetes research and education
- 2.** Cancer research and prevention/early detection education
- 3.** Asthma education and prevention
- 4.** Building the capacity of the College of Pharmacy to conduct future research studies.

Note: The Center has also expanded to encompass efforts to mitigate the social determinants of health (SDOH), or the social, economic and environmental conditions that influence these chronic disease burdens, such as income/employment, infrastructure, adverse childhood experiences, food security, amongst others.



*College of Pharmacy students volunteer for the Health and Wellness Center to provide disease prevention and education services at the NASA Michoud Health Fair.*

As part of Xavier University of Louisiana's College of Pharmacy, the CMHDRE is dedicated to having a positive impact on the community. Together with many local, regional, and national partners, the CMHDRE works to provide services and education to community members on health topics such as diabetes, heart disease, nutrition, men's and women's health, and cancer. These partnerships allow the CMHDRE to broaden the reach of its programs and activities to have maximum impact on the community.

As an extension of the work of the CMHDRE in the community, the College of Pharmacy opened the Health and Wellness Center in 2008, in partnership with Walmart stores, located at 5110 Jefferson Highway in Harahan, Louisiana. The Health and Wellness Center is staffed by clinical pharmacists to provide walk-in screenings, education, and nutritional counseling related to chronic diseases for community members. The Center also partners with community-based organizations to provide

disease prevention education and programming directly within communities like the Lower Ninth Ward, Broadmoor, etc. Center staff and pharmacy students often provide these services through local health fairs, including the annual Essence Festival and other community health fairs, and most recently at the Xavier-based COVID-19 testing sites. Additionally, the Health and Wellness Center provides healthy cooking classes where students share best practices for purchasing and cooking affordable, healthy foods to reduce poor health outcomes associated with food quality and accessibility. Most services offered at the Center are free of charge.

Further involvement in the community includes the development of the CMHDRE Community Advisory Board, which consists of members representing surrounding communities of Certeau, Broadmoor and Hollygrove, as well as members serving in diverse health related fields including youth wellness, maternal health, education, and community development, amongst others.



*The Health and Wellness Center collaborates with the Healthy Corner Store Collaborative's Good 2 Go program to offer health screenings to local community members in the Ninth Ward/St.Claude area.*