Duke / NCCU BIRCWH Advisory Committee

**PI – Duke:**
Nancy C. Andrews, M.D., PhD  
Professor of Pediatrics, Duke School of Medicine

**Site-PI – NCCU:**
Kevin Sean Kimbro, PhD  
Associate Professor, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, NCCU

**Research Director:**
Cindy Amundsen, MD  
Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery Division, Associate Professor in Surgery, Division of Urology, Duke School of Medicine

**Program Coordinator:**
Friederike L. Jayes, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pathology, Duke School of Medicine

**Advisory Board:**

**Gowthami Arepally, MD** is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology at Duke University Medical Center, Director, Physician-Scientist Strong Start Award Program (Office of Physician-Scientist Development), and the Medical Director of Therapeutic Apheresis at Duke. Her clinical interests are in immune thrombocytopenias, thrombotic disorders, and applications of therapeutic apheresis for immunologic disorders. Dr. Arepally’s long-standing research program investigates immunoregulatory mechanisms in HIT. Current laboratory efforts focus on the role of complement activation in the immune pathogenesis of HIT, investigations of protamine/heparin antibodies and development of murine models for studies of the HIT immune response. Clinical projects include applications of therapeutic apheresis, including development of a multi-site network for investigations of thrombotic microangiopathy.
Debra Brandon, PhD, RN, CCNS, FAAN, Associate Professor, joined the faculty of the Duke University School of Nursing in 1999. She was Director of the PhD Program in Nursing from July of 2011 until January of 2018. Dr. Brandon is an active member of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN), the International Society for Infant Studies (ISIS), and is a Co-editor in Chief for the journal Advances in Neonatal Care. Dr. Brandon’s research focuses on understanding the impact of the environment of care on the health and development of high-risk infants and young children with an overall goal of implementing interventions to improve the short- and long-term outcomes of both the infants and their families. Her leadership role at the School of Nursing, her research experience, and her close working relationship with faculty involved in nursing research across disciplines brings expertise and insights to our BIRCWH program that benefit scholar and program activities.

Rasheed Gbadegesin, MD is the Wilburt C. Davison Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Dean for Physician-Scientist Development, and Director of the Office of Physician-Science Development in the School of Medicine. He is also director of the Department of Pediatrics Physician Scientist Training Program (Duke Pediatric Research Scholars (DPRS) program) and co-director of the Duke Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) KL2 program, a mentored research career development program for junior faculty. Dr. Gbadegesin’s research is focused on understanding the critical pathways that are involved in the pathogenesis of nephrotic syndrome and in congenital malformations of the kidney and the urinary tract. In his role as associate dean and director, Dr. Gbadegesin focuses on the recruitment, retention and development of physician-scientists in the School of Medicine, in all departments, centers, and institutes. Dr. Gbadegesin is also invested in mentoring trainees and faculty, locally and nationally. He is the PI for the Duke Burroughs Wellcome Physician Scientist Institutional award, which provides support to address training gaps and increase the number of physicians conducting research.

Jennifer Gierisch, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Heath Sciences and the Department of Medicine at Duke University. She is a core investigator with the Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Transformation (ADAPT) where she serves as the leader of the Stakeholder Engagement Core and Director of the VA OAA Health Services Research Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Gierisch also is the Co-Director of the Evidence Synthesis Program (VA ESP) at the Durham Veteran Affairs Health Care System. She also served as a faculty director of the Duke Clinical Translational Science Institute’s Community Engaged Research Initiative (CeRi) for five years. Dr. Gierisch’s research focuses on 1) behavioral research on the psychosocial factors that influence appropriate uptake and maintenance of complex health behaviors (e.g., weight management, smoking cessation, cancer screening); 2) evidence synthesis on key health and healthcare topics to enhance uptake of evidence-based interventions to improve patient and health system outcomes; and 3) stakeholder and community engaged research approaches.

Evan Myers, MD, MPH is the Walter L. Thomas Distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Duke School of Medicine; Chief of Gynecology in Clinical & Epidemiological Health System Research; Duke Evidence Synthesis Group, Associate Director; Evidence-based Practice Center, Associate Director. As Vice Chair for Reproductive Risks for the Duke IRB, he is also interested in developing evidence-based procedures and policies to encourage safe enrollment of women, including pregnant women, into clinical trials. His research focuses on the application of systematic reviews, simulation modeling and decision analysis to a wide range of clinical and policy issues in women’s health. He has conducted many studies funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Dr. Myers is a past BIRCWH Research Director and also serves as a BIRCWH core-mentor. His ongoing work provides multiple opportunities for ongoing participation of junior faculty and he has mentored numerous individuals across the training spectrum. Dr. Myers is
involved in many multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects and his expertise in modeling and
decision analysis as well as his experience with funding agencies brings a highly valuable perspective to
the AC.

**Darlene Taylor, PhD** is a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at North Carolina Central University
and BIRCWH alumna scholar. Research in the Taylor laboratory focuses on the structure-property
relationships in oligomers and polymers. Dr. Taylor investigates the efficacy of various materials for
potential applications in technologies such as solar cells and drug delivery vehicles. As a BIRCWH scholar,
Dr. Taylor focused her work on the potential clinical application of her novel polymer development in
fibroids. Dr. Taylor is a leader in women’s health research at NCCU and provides community education
and contributes to the women’s health research culture at NCCU. As a member of the AC she provides
specific insights into the research community at NCCU and through her work has strengthened the
NCCU environment for women’s health. Dr. Taylor also serves as a BIRCWH core-mentor.

**Raphael Valdivia, PhD** is Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, and former Vice Dean for
Basic Science, Duke University School of Medicine. As the Vice Dean, he provided oversight of the
biomedical graduate programs in the School of Medicine, the postdoc office, animal care and
compliance programs, School of Medicine core facilities, and research lab space utilization. In his current
research, Dr. Valdivia focuses on understanding the molecular basis for the pathogenesis of Chlamydia
trachomatis, a leading sexually transmitted infection and the causative agent of blinding trachoma. He
has mentored countless individuals and as a member of the AC he provides career development
guidance as well as important insights into existing resources for our BIRCWH scholars. Dr. Valdivia also
serves as a BIRCWH core-mentor.

**Carlton Wilson, PhD**, is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, North Carolina Central University,
serves as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, leading the Academic Planning
Council while supporting and overseeing the academic enterprise. Dr. Wilson has had numerous
leadership roles over the course of his extensive and accomplished career in higher education. In
addition to leading the College of Liberal Arts from 2010-2012, Dr. Wilson was chair of the Department
of History for six years. He continues to serve as director of the general education curriculum for NCCU,
a role he has held for more than 10 years. Dean Wilson has been a longtime advocate for junior faculty
at NCCU. His new appointment to the new College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities broadens
our recruitment capacity eventually into the Department of Psychology and Social Work. His past
support of Dr. Minga is evidence of his ability to strategize and mobilize efforts to move the careers of
junior researchers.

**Kris Wood, PhD** is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology and Core Faculty in
Innovation & Entrepreneurship. He is also a BIRCWH alumnus scholar. He has served on NIH Scientific
Review Groups (MCT-2 and Comparative Medicine Training Proposals) and on DoD Breast Cancer
Research Program Programmatic Panel. Dr Wood is an invited peer reviewer for multiple scientific
journals. He is PI on an R01 through NCI to study selectively targeting apoptosis in PIK3CA mutant
colorectal cancers. The Wood Lab uses tools from cell biology, pharmacology, signaling, immunology,
and genomics to define principles underlying the design of new, durable anticancer therapeutic
strategies. The lab currently supports 5 graduate students and 3 postdoctoral fellows.