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TITLE: Efforts to Increase Diversity in Behavior Genetic Research, Teaching, Mentoring, and Outreach

FULL AUTHOR LIST:

Presenter #1: Daphne Martschenko, Ph.D.¹

Presenter #2: Lea K. Davis, Ph.D.²

Presenter #3: Jessica Logan, Ph.D.³

Presenter #4: Whitney Barfield, Ph.D.⁴

Presenter #5: Amy Adkins, Ph.D.⁵

Moderators: Danielle Dick, Ph.D.⁵, Kathryn Paige Harden, Ph.D.⁶, Sara A. Hart, Ph.D.⁷, Rohan Palmer, Ph.D.⁴

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ABSTRACT:

Fields like behavioral genetics have been complicit in the validation and normalization of racial and social inequalities, constructing mythologies about inherent racial differences. In order to combat structural racism and promote equitable and just behavioral genetics research, a radical rethink of the ways in which research is constructed, taught, and communicated is needed. In this session organized by the BGA IDEA committee, speakers will describe strategies for enhancing social and ethical responsibility in behavioral genetics. First, Dr. Martschenko will introduce *adversarial collaboration*, provide examples of its practice in human genetics, and discuss the ways in which this framework might be used to reimagine genomics research in service of antiracist praxis. Second, Dr. Davis will describe her work understanding the genetics underlying the richness of neurodiversity in human populations, and how she teaches this complexity to students. Third, Dr. Logan will describe how she acknowledges the white supremacist history of statistics and incorporates anti-racist teaching within a statistics class, showing students that numbers are not facts and can only be interpreted in the contexts in which they are asked. Fourth, Dr. Barfield will present an overview of the MAPme Study, designed to increase participation of underrepresented groups in genetics research and expose diverse students to hands-on research experiences. Last, Dr. Adkins will present an overview of targeted undergraduate research programming developed at VCU as an empirically supported means by which to address underrepresentation in the behavioral and biomedical sciences. The session will conclude with a moderated Q&A session.

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