



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

CAMPUS BOX 7400
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7400
www.sph.unc.edu

T 919.966.2499
F 919.966.6352

The Minority Student Caucus Presents the 46th Annual Minority Health Conference **Bridging the Digital Divide: Leveraging Technology and Data for Health Equity**

The Minority Health Conference, the largest and longest-running student-led health conference in the United States, aims to raise awareness around minority health and mobilize students, academics, and community members to take action for change. The conference was founded and is led by students at the UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Technology and data possess exceptional potential to revolutionize health outcomes. However, without intentional design and equitable approaches, they may inadvertently deepen the very disparities they aim to resolve. The digital divide—characterized by uneven access to technology and digital literacy across diverse communities—has emerged as a critical determinant of health. In an era where groundbreaking technological advancements provide transformative public health solutions, it is crucial that innovations are foundationally developed with equity.

This year's conference theme, "*Bridging the Digital Divide: Leveraging Technology and Data for Health Equity*," examines how we can harness the transformative power of technology and data to promote health equity, ensuring that all communities, particularly those historically marginalized, benefit from impactful public health advancements. We aim to spotlight visionary innovators and dedicated researchers who prioritize broad participation in their design of public health interventions and solutions.

Minority populations frequently encounter significant barriers to gaining access to technology, particularly when solutions are not tailored to their specific needs. This challenge is exacerbated by the insufficient data on these groups, which may hinder researchers and innovators. While artificial intelligence holds extraordinary promise for public health, it is critical that AI systems are trained on representative data. The Minority Health Conference will delve into this theme by focusing on the development of responsible, accessible, and comprehensive digital health solutions. Additionally, we will explore how data can illuminate pervasive health disparities rooted in systemic biases,



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underscoring the importance of comprehensive, data-driven research. By leveraging these powerful tools, we can design systems and conduct investigations that equitably serve all populations.

We hope this theme inspires actionable strategies for leveraging technology and data to promote health equity for all.

At the Gillings School of Global Public Health, we are committed to community-centered equity initiatives, advocating for inclusive research and innovations. Since 1977, the Minority Student Caucus has been a leader in convening hundreds of diverse voices from local, national, and global perspectives to engage in meaningful dialogue on minority health.

Join us at the 46th Annual Minority Health Conference in-person at the William and Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina or through our virtual broadcast on **Friday, February 28, 2025**. Together, let us harness technology and data to build a future where health equity is a reality for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mercy Adekola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a heart shape at the beginning of the first name.

*Mercy Adekola
Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering
Minority Health Conference Co-Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Wang". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Justin Wang
Department of Biostatistics
Minority Health Conference Co-Chair*