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\$3.5 million grant renewal to University Research Corridor member universities marks 25 years of research and scholarship on minority aging and health



DETROIT, Dec. 10, 2018: The Institute of Gerontology at *Wayne State University*, in partnership with the Institute of Social Research at the *University of Michigan* and the College of Human Medicine at *Michigan State University*, received a \$3.5 million grant renewal from the *National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging* to extend the *Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR)*.

Continuously funded since 1997, MCUAAAR will expand its work through 2023. MCUAAAR is one of 18 *Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research* across the nation tasked with improving the health of older minorities through research, scholarship and education. The *University Research Corridor (URC)* is an alliance of Michigan's three leading research institutions: Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. The URC plays a key role in leveraging the intellectual capital of its three public research universities.

African-Americans have significantly higher rates than Caucasians of diabetes, stroke, heart disease, high blood pressure and certain cancers as they age. MCUAAAR scholars investigate causes of and ways to prevent these health disparities. James Jackson, research professor at the Institute for Social Research, is the grant's principal investigator and, along with co-PIs *Joan Ilardo* of Michigan State University and *Peter Lichtenberg* of Wayne State University, directs all aspects of MCUAAAR's activities. "MCUAAAR has operated as a resource for the Detroit older community for over 20 years," Jackson said. "It has assisted in transforming innumerable lives of community dwelling elders of color and faculty members at Wayne State and the University of Michigan in the process. We are very pleased that MSU will be joining us this year to begin expanding our work to Flint and MSU at Flint."

According to Lichtenberg, director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State, MCUAAAR is a catalyst for widespread change. "It has two major aims," he said. "Increase the number of diverse junior faculty working in aging and health research, and partner with older African-Americans in meaningful ways to improve health and well-being."

Photo courtesy of Wayne State University.

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