



Emory University School of Nursing Associate Professor Awarded Grant for Caregiving While Black-LIVE: Empowering Black Dementia Caregivers to Navigate Care

Atlanta, GA – September 4, 2023 - The NIH National Institute of Aging (NIA) has awarded its grant for "Caregiving While Black-LIVE: Empowering Black Dementia Caregivers to Navigate Care" to Fayron Epps PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, Associate Professor with Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. The R21 Research Project grant provides funding to develop and test a synchronous/asynchronous caregiver psychoeducation program, Caregiving while Black-LIVE, to promote caregiving self-efficacy in Black caregivers while acknowledging the social and cultural realities of this historically minoritized racial and ethnic group. The research team led by Dr. Epps includes Drs. Carolyn Clevenger, Kenneth Hepburn, and Melinda Higgins at Emory School of Nursing.

In the best of times, Black caregivers are under duress. Black Americans have more than twice the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias than Whites, thus increasing the number of Black family members providing care for persons living with dementia disorders like Alzheimer's disease (PLWD). For Black dementia caregivers, the overlay of health disparities and systemic discrimination adds substantially to the taxing challenges of caregiving and contributes to heightened adverse outcomes for these caregivers and PLWD. Black Americans are disproportionately burdened by the cultural and practical reality of Black caregiving in America.

This research project will contribute to existing knowledge regarding caregiving in the Black community and the development and implementation of psychoeducation programs targeted to this specific group as Black caregivers are often confronted with the complexities of caregiving through the lens of race and associated health disparities. This project is the next step in establishing a scalable and effective culturally relevant psychoeducation course to mitigate the effects of structural racism by supporting the practices and traditions of caregiving in the Black community.

Dr. Fayron Epps is an Associate Professor, tenured, and joined the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in August 2019. She has over 20 years of nursing experience. Dr. Epps completed her doctoral degree in Nursing from Southern University and A&M College. She has a Master's of Science degree in Nursing (Health Care Systems Management) from Loyola University New Orleans and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Tuskegee University. Dr. Epps' program of research involves evidence-based practices for promoting quality of life for African American adults living with dementia and their family caregivers/care partners. Dr. Epps is currently working on a project with faith communities to develop dementia-friendly faith villages to support African American families living with dementia.

For more information on Dr. Fayron Epps, visit her [faculty profile](#). To learn more about the R21 Research Project grant, visit the National Institute of Aging [website](#).

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About the School of Nursing

As one of the nation's top nursing schools, the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University is committed to educating visionary nurse leaders and scholars. Ranked the No. 1 master's, No. 2 BSN, and No. 6 DNP programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, the school is recognized as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League of Nursing. The school offers undergraduate, master's, doctoral and non-degree programs, bringing together cutting-edge resources, distinguished faculty, top clinical experiences, and access to leading health care partners to shape the future of nursing and impact the world's health and well-being. Learn more at nursing.emory.edu.